

ANNALS OF IOWA



Iowa Historical Building, Des Moines

Published Quarterly at Des Moines by
**IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
AND ARCHIVES**

JANUARY, 1956

Established 1863
Title Copyrighted

Third Series
Vol. XXXIII, No. 3

Annals Contents . . .

January, 1956

An Epoch in Iowa Politics By WILLIAM G. KERR.....	153-171
Washington's Life and Training By CLAUDE R. COOK.....	172-185
Life's Miracle By PAULA BISHOP.....	185
Ringgold County's Centennial By LUKE E. HART.....	186-199
Aaron V. Proudfoot—1862 - 1936 By FRANCIS I. MOATS.....	200-214
Railroading in Iowa Before 1900 By G. W. DYE.....	215-220
Iowa People and Events: Traffic Changes in Iowa	221-223
The Bootjack Gavel.....	223-224
Territorial Apportionment.....	224-225
Iowa's Notable Dead.....	226-232
ILLUSTRATION:	
Senators John H. Gear and A. B. Cummins	Facing
Speakers D. H. Brown and W. L. Eaton.....	Pg. 153

•

CLAUDE R. COOK, Curator

EMORY H. ENGLISH, Editor Associate

•

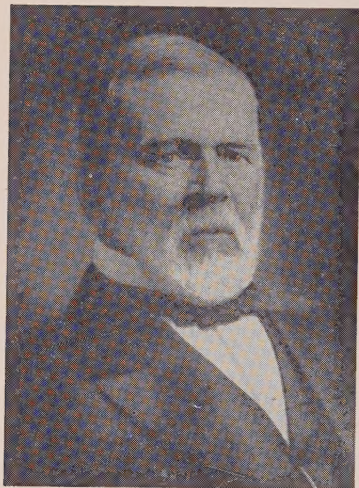
THE ANNALS OF IOWA is issued in January, April, July and October at Des Moines. Subscription Price \$1.00 Per Year; Three Years, \$2.50 When Paid in Advance; To Address Outside U.S.A., \$1.25 Per Year; Single Copies, 25 cents.

Entered as second class matter July 8, 1920, at the post office at Des Moines, Iowa, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

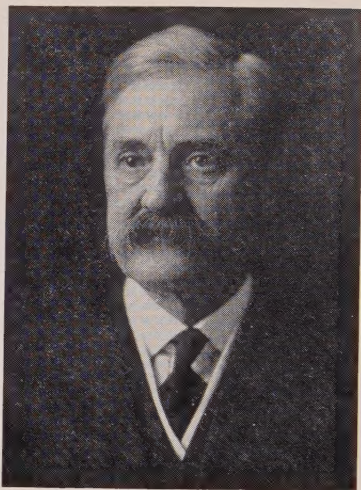


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024

CANDIDATES FOR U. S. SENATOR, 1900

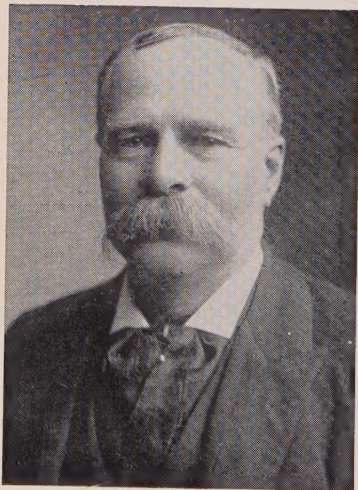


JOHN H. GEAR

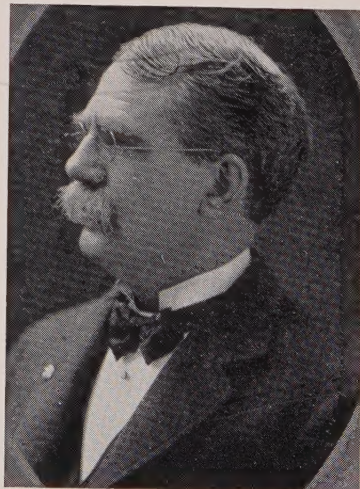


ALBERT B. CUMMINS

CANDIDATES FOR SPEAKER IOWA HOUSE



DR. D. H. BOWEN



WILLARD L. EATON

Annals of Iowa

ESTABLISHED 1863

VOL. XXXIII, No. 3

DES MOINES, JANUARY, 1956

THIRD SERIES

An Epoch in Iowa Politics

By WILLIAM G. KERR*

In the year 1900, four years following the defeat of William J. Bryan and the Democratic party in 1896, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated on the Republican ticket for vice president with President McKinley, who was running for his second term. The choice was made upon the insistent demand of Senator Platt of New York, seeking thereby to effectually sidetrack Roosevelt, who that early had his eye on the presidency, and reluctantly accepted the nomination for the minor position on the Republican ticket.

Iowans with others proposed Congressman Jonathon P. Dolliver for the second place on the ticket and Major McKinley had indicated his approval, but Platt had his way. LaFayette Young of the *Des Moines Capital* was said to have had a speech all ready to place Dolliver in nomination, but changed it with the tide of affairs, to name Roosevelt instead, who had attained fame in the Spanish-American war as the popular hero of engagements in Cuba. Thus did Dolliver miss the presidency.

At that time agitation was going on seeking to liberalize the attitude of the Republican party, change the leadership personnel and even displace representation

* William Gault Kerr, of Grundy Center, was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from the Sixty-fifth district, Grundy county, in the 28th and 29th G. A. (1900 and 1902). Only two other members of the House in the 28th are still among the living—Burton E. Sweet of Waverly and W. G. Jones of Sigourney.

in congress that dominated its purposes. My father, a veteran of the Civil war, who had been active in Illinois politics, later in Iowa politics, and served in the House of Representatives at Washington, D. C., from the Fifth Iowa district, and whose opinion and judgment I thought valuable, believed that the party was largely controlled by special privilege, dominated by powerful selfish interests and should be disciplined. Therefore, he repudiated it. On the other hand, I believed that it could be disciplined successfully within the party ranks and made more responsive to the needs of the people.

The bulk of more liberal sentiment was mainly centered in the Midwest, in such states as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas and in California and several other states. Governor LaFollette of Wisconsin and the Republican delegation from that state had been turned down in at least two Republican national conventions by an overwhelming vote when they proposed forward-looking measures for insertion in the party platform. Similar attempts to liberalize party pronouncements were made by others in later years. I recall hearing Hiram Johnson, governor of California, where he had retired the Southern Pacific Railroad from political activity and ended its rule in that state, speaking from the floor of the Republican national convention of 1912, seeking the same objective. I witnessed the dispute, strife and division within the party delegates present after he had finally secured the attention of and been recognized by Elihu Root of New York, chairman of the convention.

CUMMINS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPS

Here in Iowa, similar sentiment existed and rapidly grew in volume. Albert B. Cummins of Des Moines, a tall, vigorous, fine-looking man in the prime of life, a great lawyer, often mentioned as being at the head of the Iowa bar, of wholesome and independent character, for some time had been a modest aspirant for the position of United States senator from Iowa, his adopted state. He had distinct qualities of leadership.

Often in visiting with friends, in characteristic involuntary manner, he would throw back his shoulders, keeping them erect, maintaining a distinguished poise and bearing. He had been recognized in the councils of his party and was one of the candidates for the U.S. senate when Senator John H. Gear was first chosen. In 1900, when Gear sought a second term, Mr. Cummins again became an active and aggressive candidate for election by the Iowa legislature. Since he did not bow before the prestige and commands of the oldtime Republican leaders, he appeared in their eyes as the symbol of rebellion.

Many years previous, Cummins had been elected to the Iowa House of Representatives as an independent candidate. He had differed with his party at that time upon methods of control of the liquor traffic in the state, and his candidacy was in response to a petition and request of three hundred fellow Republicans of Polk county who had similar beliefs upon that subject, this being considered by the party management as making him a liability, but by others he was regarded as a decided asset. No other senatorial candidates appeared in this contest, which to some extent affected the political fortunes of state legislative candidates.

For weeks prior to the convening of the Iowa General Assembly in January of 1900, a contest for the Republican nomination for speaker of the house was engaged in between Representatives W. L. Eaton of Osage, Mitchell county, and D. H. Bowen of Waukon, Allamakee county, the Cummins supporters favoring Mr. Eaton and the Gear forces supporting Dr. Bowen. This contest involved the entire organization of the House of Representatives, but was so over-shadowing that individual candidates for legislative clerical positions were not in evidence as is the usual practice. This skirmish was preliminary to and a part of the senatorial fight. It was believed by the supporters of Mr. Cummins, the writer being one of the number, that if the Iowa house could be controlled through election of the Cummins

candidate for speaker, with strength Cummins would be able to secure in the state senate, his election over Senator Gear would be assured, and thus Iowa would secure a more progressive senator.

In the fall of 1899, following the election, and in company with Captain E. M. Sargent, a member of the Republican State Central committee for the old Fifth district, the writer went down to Cedar Rapids to meet and counsel with the leaders and other Republicans of the district. The Fifth district then was the home of Robert G. Cousins, congressman, and a Standpat stronghold. It was a conservative area always. Not to my surprise, however, I found that the member of the house elected in Marshall county, Representative Thomas Kimball and myself were the only persons present who indicated a friendly feeling for the Cummins cause. However, I have often said that I found the others in the group to be excellent men, aggressive Republicans, but not as liberal in their views as myself, and while they always treated me with courtesy, I never felt that they were under any obligation to me in a political sense.

REFORM MOVEMENT OUSTS COUSINS

Nevertheless, eventually there came a change of sentiment in the district. The Cummins uprising retired Cousins from congress, after sixteen years of service, his retirement characterized by denunciatory utterances by him in criticism of those with whom he differed. It will be remembered that James W. Good was elected to succeed him in 1908 and served the district in congress for twelve years, when he voluntarily retired and later became manager of Herbert Hoover's campaign for the presidency; then was Hoover's secretary of war and passed away long before his time as a result of an operation. I had known Mr. Good in Coe college, roomed in the same house, belonged to the same society, and in 1906 had urged him to run for congress, but he then felt that the time was not ripe. When Cousins learned he would have opposition for

renomination and because of it retired to private life, James H. Trewin, who had recently moved to Cedar Rapids, became Mr. Good's opponent in the primary, but was defeated. Cyrenus Cole served the district as congressman ten years following Mr. Good's retirement. When the state of Iowa was redistricted, the old Fifth congressional district passed into history, with pleasant, abiding recollections remaining of its personalities and contests.

Mr. Cousins' attitude of resentment toward the changing political sentiment in the state was characteristic of many other Iowa congressmen at that time. Albert B. Cummins, although recognized as being of eminent senatorial stature, in reality was compelled to meet the attitude of prejudice and unfriendly feeling of the majority of the congressional delegation of the state and the governor of Iowa. Governor Shaw knew that Judge Nathaniel M. Hubbard of Cedar Rapids, who was not for Cummins, had been the leading influence that made him governor. Cummins also had the opposition of J. W. Blythe, the general solicitor of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Whenever the term "the reservation" was mentioned, it meant the domain of J. W. Blythe. The team, Hubbard and Blythe, long was renowned in dictatorship of Iowa Republicanism. Those having the temerity to oppose this powerful party influence had bargained for a continuing struggle for supremacy or sometimes political survival in the state which had long been in the control of these men. Such a contest involved not only Iowa, however, but concern of other states, as well as the national interest.

As the time for the convening of the General Assembly approached in 1900, the public men and politicians of the state gathered at Des Moines for preliminary conferences. Some days before the holding of the caucus of Republican house members, James E. Blythe of Mason City, a former house member and brother of Joseph W. Blythe of Burlington, the latter the man who was always consulted by the public men when any of its

citizens were seeking important state office, together with George Metzger, postmaster at Davenport, took me into a room in the old Savery hotel at Des Moines. In the course of a pleasant visit, they told me that the forces represented by them had been running Iowa political affairs and would continue to do so; that to oppose their strength was like "butting your head against a stone wall." I told them that my mind was made up, so further discussion was not indulged in. This sort of pressure from outside my district did not impress me too well, but I quickly learned that other members thought to be for Cummins, as well as those in the wavering group, were being pressured in like manner.

Just how many of the other Cummins or Gear men had a like experience to my own, I never learned. I was told that young Dr. Eiker of Decatur county and Dr. Prentis of Ringgold county had to meet similar tests, but remained steadfast Cummins supporters. The newspapers told of Dr. Eiker being taken for an unpleasant ride in a cab by Ed H. Hunter, of the Burlington Railway, in an effort to line him up for Bowen and Gear, but without success. Other incidents were indicative of the determined character of the struggle for mastery. Apparently there were a few who wavered considerably in reaching a final decision and many members were being made the subjects of surveillance right up to the hour of convening the caucus.

GARDNER COWLES A FACTOR

In a few days, Gardner Cowles, the Kossuth county new member, came down from Algona and quickly became an influential element in the Gear forces. He ascertained that the number of members of the house committed to support of Bowen for speaker fell short of the required majority. He counseled the round-Robin method of signing up every possible man to a written agreement to vote for Bowen and Gear. This was immediately done, and then operations began, bringing influence to bear upon the wavering or undecided group.

Members of the legislature and outsiders were utilized to accomplish these ends. Where necessary, promises were made of legislative patronage, committee chairmanships and assignments and help in securing votes for bills to be introduced when the legislature assembled. The Standpat members co-operating with Cowles in this procedure included Stuckslager, Temple, Dows, Payne, Kendall, Wilson of Washington and others. Their canvass disclosed that some members who expected to vote for Bowen were not too sure to be for Gear, and the reverse was also found in one or two instances. Names were systematically assigned to Gear men and they proceeded by two's to line up and secure signatures from those not already committed. The Cummins-Eaton forces were equally active, but not so methodical in their procedure. The Republican house leaders active in that group included Byers, Carr, Way, Prentis, Clark of Hamilton, and Wilson of Buena Vista. The lines were tightly drawn and the result unquestionably was in doubt up to the holding of the caucus.

The pre-caucus canvass was exhausting for the venerable John H. Gear running for re-election. Through the previous years he had been speaker of the Iowa house, governor of Iowa—"Old Business"—a member of congress and United States senate. His opponent, the alert Albert B. Cummins, also was to be seen in the lobbies and conferences. Likewise, the candidates for speakership were contrasting individualities. Dr. D. H. Bowen, the Gear candidate, was a calm and quiet man, and Willard L. Eaton, the Cummins candidate, a more emotional and aggressive type.

GEAR MEN CONTROLLED CAUCUS

The caucus session proved to be quiet and very business-like in procedure, showing how thorough had been the canvass made by the opposing forces. The vote was close, being 43 for Dr. Bowen and 38 for Mr. Eaton. A change of three votes would have reversed the decision. Dr. Bowen was declared the Republican nominee for speaker, after which Gear was unanimously nominated

for U. S. senator and he was elected by the general assembly.

In the distribution of house employees then selected, the wishes of the Gear membership prevailed, but revealed some situations not altogether understandable. Illustrative of this was the development that while Representative Anderson of Warren county was among the 38 members voting in the caucus for Mr. Eaton for speaker, two of the more important employees of the house selected were from Warren county, being S. M. Cart, chief clerk, and A. U. Swan, journal clerk. It is entirely probable that Representative Anderson was pledged to vote for Senator Gear, while through personal friendship he supported Eaton in the speakership contest.

But the victory of the Gear forces was only the real beginning of a determined struggle by the supporters of Mr. Cummins for future political control of the Republican party in Iowa and the effective elimination of the sinister influences of dominating dictatorship which had long ruled in Iowa official circles, that ultimately was to send Cummins to the United States senate. In view of the strength shown by the Cummins group and his growing personal popularity, it was decided to protect and fortify that strength by more complete organization over the state, developing what was characterized "the Progressive Republican Movement."

State Treasurer G. S. Gilbertson and Secretary of State William B. Martin from this group were nominated and elected in November of 1900, the state then having annual elections. Thereafter, in 1901, Mr. Cummins was persuaded to become a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. That decision took his opposition by surprise, as they had confidently believed he had been permanently disposed of; thus again was precipitated all of the factional contention characterizing the senatorial fight of the year before, and with added furor. From county to county the contest for delegates raged, with Mr. Cummins leading against

a field of other candidates, including one from his own county.

The final test of strength of the opposing factions came in the 1901 state convention at Cedar Rapids. The Republican committee selected James C. Davis for temporary chairman. He was a prominent lawyer and insurance executive then residing at Keokuk, and later was the choice of President Wilson for Director General of railroads in restoration of various lines to the individual railroad companies following their operation by the government during World War I. It was a tumultuous gathering and in selecting as its permanent chairman, H. W. Byers of Shelby county, the proceedings were ably controlled, he being an experienced lawyer and an expert parliamentarian, having been speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives. Cummins was nominated by the convention, was elected and became the next governor of Iowa. He was not opposed for his second term and during his incumbency as chief executive, made an enviable record.

CUMMINS HEADS STATE ADMINISTRATION

With Cummins in the executive chair, for a time there came a peaceful era in Iowa Republican circles. Willard L. Eaton, who had been defeated for speaker of the house of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, was unanimously chosen speaker of the Twenty-ninth. Past differences in the party appeared to be forgotten and with no opposition Senators Allison and Dolliver were re-elected, the latter having been appointed by Governor Shaw to fill out the term for which the late Senator Gear since deceased, had been chosen. Then President Theodore Roosevelt honored the state by selecting Mr. Shaw for the responsible position of Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, which he held during the entire period of the Roosevelt administration. As we look back across the years and see Secretary Shaw walking down the center aisle of the Iowa house upon the arm of Senator Allison, we marvel at their composure. This seeming harmony in Iowa Republican

circles was encouraged by the conservative forces among Iowa Republicans as the result of their wisdom in politics, but it was not to continue.

The Standpat membership of the Iowa General Assembly succeeded in blocking many of Governor Cummins' legislative recommendations. It seemed imperative that he should remain governor and the Progressive movement in the state completely control the legislature until the issues before the state and country were rightly determined. Upon insistent urging, Cummins was announced a candidate for a third term. When his decision became known both in Iowa and the country at large, the old antagonisms of 1900 and 1901 became more pronounced than ever. His opposition selected as his opponent the veteran editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, a man of ripe experience who had served in congress for many terms, George D. Perkins, who was a creditable and popular a candidate as the conservative group could have chosen. He was an able speaker and for many years had thoroughly disliked Mr. Cummins, making the contest somewhat of a personal nature.

As the pre-convention campaign advanced, arrangements were made for a joint debate between the two candidates at Spirit Lake. Neither of them relished the prospective personal encounter. I went up to Spirit Lake to hear their debate and there visited with Senator A. B. Funk, who was a stalwart supporter of Governor Cummins and a fine type of man. It seems that some years before that Perkins had heard a false report of the death of Funk and had written an obituary highly praising him, later to be embarrassed in finding him much alive and supporting in an influential way his opponent.

LARRABEE'S SUPPORT VALUABLE

It was at this debate that former Governor Larrabee's support of Cummins and the principles he espoused was disclosed. The governor made the opening address of an hour, followed by Perkins occupying an hour and a quarter, in which he thoroughly dissected

the Cummins position and his standing as a responsible member of the Republican party, alleging that few leading Iowa Republicans supported his contentions. Cummins had the closing fifteen minutes, during which he read a personal letter written to him by former Governor William Larrabee, according him full and enthusiastic support in his candidacy and praise for his recommendations to the general assembly and stand upon public questions at issue in the state campaign. Perkins was flabbergasted, as were his supporters, and that was a decided turning point in the contest. The bitter struggle ended with Cummins winning the nomination at the state convention. He was elected for the third term, an innovation in Iowa, which was extended an additional year through the adoption of the biennial election amendment, giving him a total of seven years in the governorship. Possibly it was fortunate that Cummins was not successful in his early efforts to be elected United States senator. Had he accomplished his ambition then the state would have lost those wonderful years in local leadership when he served as the reform governor of Iowa, that really meant so much to the commonwealth.

In 1902, Cummins and his friends had permitted Dolliver and Allison to be re-elected without opposition. But, when in 1908 Cummins became a candidate to succeed Allison, that consideration was all forgotten. It was the first nomination through operation of the new state-wide primary law. The campaign was a heated one. Dolliver made speeches all over the state in support of his old friend Allison, who was desperately ill at his home in Dubuque. The "Torbert letter" came into the campaign, written some years previous, in which it was declared that Cummins was not a candidate against the senator. The outcome of this tense contest gave Allison a majority of the votes and thereby he was renominated to retain his seat in the senate, but only lived about two months after the primary. Subsequently, the governor called a special session of

the legislature to amend the primary law providing for a special primary election for senatorial nominations.

At the primary election provided, Cummins and Major John F. Lacey, an old soldier of the Civil war, for many years in congress from the Sixth Iowa district and an old-time conservative and Standpat leader, were the candidates for the Republican nomination, the former winning by a substantial majority. The special session was reassembled and Cummins was elected senator; also at the session of the General Assembly in January following, Cummins was elected for the six-year full term, following from March 4th. This was nearly nine years after his defeat by Senator Gear in 1900 and marked the beginning of a conspicuous, superior and highly distinguished continuous service by Cummins in the United States senate for Iowa and the country over a period of eighteen years. During this time he was seriously considered for the presidential nomination and received votes in two Republican national conventions for that position. Upon the death of President Harding and Vice President Coolidge having succeeded to the presidency, Cummins was elected president of the senate and served several years in that capacity.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S CONNECTIONS

It has been stated that after President Theodore Roosevelt began his second term, he definitely associated himself with the Progressive movement in the Republican party and identified himself with the "Rodents of Reform," as described by Congressman Robert G. Cousins in an Iowa Republican convention speech. But in considering that statement, my memory takes me back to those days. I was well acquainted with the Progressive Republican leaders in Iowa and they told me that when it was put up to Roosevelt to join with them and support their program, he treated the idea with disdain and indifference. He thought it folly to have the idea that the political leaders who placed him

on the ticket with McKinley in 1900 as the vice-presidential candidate could be undermined and shorn of their prestige and power. He had a reason to be loyal to them, for it seems beyond question that if he had not been on the ticket with McKinley, he would never at any time have achieved the presidency.

President Taft inherited a disposition that made him a conservative and Standpatter in his own right, and he did not need to cultivate it. The background of Roosevelt was in sympathy with wealth, power and position. When he placed Taft before the country as his candidate for the presidency, he had all of his administration to fall back on and aid in the Taft crusade. To give Taft strength and votes, he informed the country that Taft was entitled to a large share of the credit for the triumphs of his own administration. When, in 1908, he had been able with all of the machinery at his command to elect Taft, he went on his lion hunt in Africa and left his friend Taft with the tariff issue on his hands. History tells us that it has always been a source of trouble and today it is again in the limelight and bears watching. When Roosevelt returned from his African lion hunt and found Taft unpopular, he fell out with Taft and criticized his record. He embraced an extreme view of public questions, rather giving countenance to quasi socialistic ideas somewhat indicative of later action by Franklin D. Roosevelt and his court-packing bill of more recent years. As a third-party candidate, he did find sufficient following among Republicans in Iowa, however, to enable Wilson to carry the state over Taft.

THE REGULATION OF RAILROADS

Cummins became involved in railroad legislation designed to enable the railroads of the country to continue to serve as public carriers after return of ownership to their stockholders following governmental operation in World War I and long afterward. They had suffered materially from this management and both equipment and roadbeds were run down and in sad

condition. Cummins advocated giving the Interstate Commerce Commission power to regulate the transportation system of the country and the railroads as public carriers be entitled to rates to rehabilitate the lines and yield specified reasonable profit. This became a political issue in Iowa in several campaigns and Smith W. Brookhart of Washington county, a former Cummins supporter, challenged such procedure, causing defection in the Cummins ranks, but the senator with the help of many who formerly opposed him was renominated and re-elected to the senate in 1920.

However, the tide of political controversy again was running strong in Iowa, and in 1922, Senator William S. Kenyon, who in 1911 had been elected as Dolliver's successor, resigned from the senate to accept an appellate court appointment and Governor Nate E. Kendall selected Charles E. Rawson, a personal friend of Cummins and chairman of the Republican state central committee, to fill the vacancy, who served several months. Prior to the general election in 1922, a contest developed in the selection of the Republican candidate to fill the remainder of Kenyon's term up to 1925. Senator Cummins' railroad bill again became a prominent issue with former Senator Leslie E. Francis of Dickinson county, Burton E. Sweet of Bremer county, Charles E. Pickett of Black Hawk county, Clifford Thorne and Smith W. Brookhart both of Washington county, as candidates for the nomination. Brookhart won the 35 per cent necessary to become the nominee and was elected.

In the 1924 campaign, Brookhart was renominated over Burton E. Sweet. It was the year when Calvin Coolidge headed the Republican national ticket and the Progressive party ticket headed by Robert M. LaFollett of Wisconsin was reported to have Brookhart's support. Many Republicans in protest voted for Dan Steck, the Democrat candidate for the senate, the returns showing Brookhart as receiving only about one thousand more votes than Steck. Cummins refrained from tak-

ing active part in the campaign. The outcome of the election was contested and the senate seated Steck.

In 1926, when Senator Cummins came up for renomination, after long public service, having lived an active and useful life, at his age he was no longer able to engage in an active campaign. Born in 1850, and well past the allotted span of three score years and ten, the details of political meetings and travel incident thereto had become irksome, if not a burden. Although still alert and conscious of the importance of pending issues, he contented himself with interviews and conferences and more limited meetings, in the discussion of his position upon railroad legislation and other policies which he favored. Brookhart was active in opposition, charging that Cummins had succumbed to the railroad "interests."

A new factor entered the campaign in the candidacy of Howard J. Clark of Des Moines for the senatorship. Brookhart previously having been retired to private life in losing to Steck in the 1924 senatorial contest, Clark assumed the field was open for another Republican candidate, although it has never been explained why he opposed Cummins, whom he previously had supported in many campaigns. This campaign imposed serious drains upon Cummins' strength. Besides Clark's circle of personal friends and active supporters, he drew heavily of others from the ranks of those who formerly had supported Senator Cummins. The campaign waged by Brookhart was a quiet one, but most thorough in character and again he was successful in obtaining the 35 per cent vote in the primary necessary to receive the nomination. He was elected in November, succeeding Cummins, and returned to Washington for another six-year term.

Mr. Cummins had served the people of the state faithfully in public office as governor and senator for over a quarter of a century. Upon his retirement, he engaged himself for a time in preparations to write his memoirs and had completed the opening chapters

when death overtook him in Des Moines July 30, 1926.

Always interested in the public good, he was an honor to the state. He never faltered in a crisis, but "fought a good fight and kept the faith," like the Apostle of old. Not realizing, perhaps, that his life's work was completed, the end came as a merciful release from valiant endeavors in public service of one of Iowa's strongest men and most brilliant figures. The sorrow of a bereaved people paid tribute to his memory, to the virtues and achievements of a useful life, lived in a great state, where from a humble beginning he had grown and reached the heights of greatness.

ABLE IOWANS IN THE HOUSE

In the Iowa House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly convened in 1900, where the initial skirmishes of Cummins' great career occurred, and the succeeding session of 1902, I came in contact with a sizable group of excellent men with whom personal relations were cordial, although some differed radically in support of measures and men, but no hard personal feelings resulted. It is interesting fifty years later as a sidelight, to recall that a large portion of the men in the house wore whiskers, many of them quite luxuriant. However, they were not like the Bible Samson whose beard and hair gave him great strength and when shorn, his power had departed.

During a long period from early days to the present, the General Assemblies of Iowa have maintained an excellent reputation. Then some of the members were very young men, many were middle aged and quite a few close to three score years and ten. Some were prominent at the time and others became prominent in later years. I well recall M. L. Temple of Clarke county, a Gear man, author of what had been termed the "Temple Amendment." When he arose and addressed the house, he always seemed to grow in stature. Then there was H. W. Byers, who later became attorney general of Iowa, a Cummins leader; also Judge George H. Carr, a close friend of Cummins, who had

won the title of judge in northern Iowa, came down to Des Moines and entered the house from Polk county. He was a good friend of mine and once advised me to "keep on good terms with the newspapers."

Gardner Cowles, then a resident of Algona and representative from Kossuth county, was an influential member. Some years later he and Harvey Ingham moved to Des Moines and purchased the *Register and Leader* and renewed its statewide influence, laying the foundation of the paper's great prestige today. Mr. Cowles was an aggressive Gear supporter and a very quiet member, seldom engaging in debate, but a constructive and capable legislator. He was chairman of the house committee on schools. Since his name preceded mine upon the roll call, I often noted how he voted upon important bills. He believed in having a primary election law. He and I were appointed upon a sub-committee of the elections committee to pass upon the merits of several primary law bills which had been introduced in the 1902 session. The agitation had just begun and Governor Cummins had recommended the enactment of such a law. Now nearly every state in the Union has adopted such a system of making party nominations.

Also, I well recall M. F. Edwards of Butler county, a competent lawyer, a Bowen man, who later became a district judge and for thirty years rendered fine service on the bench. And there was Tom Way of Hancock county, a natural leader, who became Cummins' manager in his campaign for the governorship in 1901, and years later served in similar capacity in the Dan Turner governorship campaign. In his acceptance of nomination for governor, Cummins spoke of him as "the Way of my victory."

John Hughes, Jr. of Iowa county, an earnest man, was somewhat chagrined because of the defeat of his anti-pass bill, for members rebuffed him, but he became a state senator and his bill ultimately became a law. One of the charming men of my acquaintance

was George W. Dunham of Delaware county, who became a state senator and later judge of my judicial district. There was Fred C. Gilchrist, a Cummins man from Pocahontas county, a man of ability who was elevated to the senate, for many years served in congress and upon retirement was succeeded by James I. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, a nephew of the great senator. W. G. Dows and Willard Stuckslager of Linn county, strong Bowen men from Standpat territory, were pleasant gentlemen and good businessmen. Stuckslager became state senator and Dows was prominent as an interurban railroad promoter.

GEORGE W. CLARKE INFLUENTIAL

From Dallas county came one of the outstanding advocates of the Cummins cause in the person of George W. Clarke. He was a lawyer of good ability and a fine type of man. He had great influence in the general assembly and twice became speaker of later houses, twice lieutenant-governor of Iowa and twice governor of the state. He served in the day when the Theodore Roosevelt and Hiram Johnson third party "Bull Moose" party flourished in Iowa. Judge Stevens of Boone was their candidate and George W. Clarke, the Republican candidate, won the election for governor by a small majority in the heated campaign in which "Capital Extension" was the issue.

I knew Burton E. Sweet of Bremer county, a Gear man, in Cornell college in 1892. He became a lawyer, a member of the 1900 and 1902 houses, a member of congress for several terms and an orator of note. Later he ran for the Republican nomination for United States senate and made a strong and remarkable race for the position. He still is in active professional life and a pleasant gentleman to meet.

Nate E. Kendall, of Monroe county, a Gear man, was well equipped in many ways. He was a lawyer of ability, fine speaker and a congenial companion; was speaker of the Iowa house the last of five terms served, two terms a member of congress, two terms governor of

Iowa and made the nominating speech for Senator Cummins when he was presented to the Republican national convention for the presidential nomination.

And in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly appeared my friend, Emory H. English from Polk county, a constructive and effective legislator, who served three sessions, three terms as state printer and continued a career of usefulness as a wise and competent state insurance commissioner. He still keeps in touch with public affairs.

Also, I readily recall Charlie Wise, who always was interested in the great normal school at Cedar Falls. And then there was Rush G. Clark, of Hamilton county, also a credit to his county and the state, later serving as Iowa dairy commissioner. In this manner, I go down the list of strong men who made up the personnel of those memorable assemblies.

Who can ever forget Col. S. A. Moore, a gentleman of the old school from Davis county, a soldier in the Mexican war, a veteran of the Civil war, a senator in the Indiana legislature and a splendid speaker, so well poised and eloquent, to be rewarded with his house chair when the Twenty-ninth General Assembly reached its adjournment?

The members of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth sessions of 1900 and 1902 well did their part in the notable crusade for better things. What their services meant to the state and society will remain as their memorial. They helped to fortify the foundation of progress. Later the United States was intrigued into three great wars, whose damage to the world must be undone; the effort is now being made. The peace that all seem to crave must find the individual patriot still working for the common good and the great ideal will be accomplished when man to man the world over will brothers be.

Washington's Life and Training

By CLAUDE R. COOK*

The boyhood of George Washington is one of the obscure chapters in his life. His education, his sports, his adventures and his ambitions are the least known about him. For many years a collection of fables and legends and historical fiction grew up to give him the background for the heroic figure he became.

He was born at West Creek plantation, West Moorland county, Virginia, at ten o'clock in the morning of February 22, 1732. (By the old style calendar it was February 11th.) His father was Captain Augustine and his mother was Mary Ball. He was christened the following April in the Episcopal church and it is believed the Reverend Lawrence De Butts baptized him. The infant wore a soft white brocade christening robe lined with rose silk, which is now carefully treasured in the National Museum in Washington, as is also the silver bowl which was used as a font in the baptismal service.

When he was three years old, the family moved to another one of their plantations in what was then Prince William county, which estate afterwards came to be called Mount Vernon, and here they lived until George was seven years old and his education by his father and mother was begun. About this same time, his father decided to move his family to a farm he had purchased on the Rappahannock river opposite Fredericksburg. He made another trip to England and brought back a shipload of convicts. Among them was one William Grove, a man of education, likely a political prisoner, who became the first teacher George had. This man was made sexton of the church at Falmouth, about

* An address delivered before The Service Men's Club, at the Standard Club, 615 High Street, Des Moines, Iowa, February 22, 1955, by Claude R. Cook, Curator of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives.

two miles from the Washington farm, to which they moved about 1740.

The Reverend Jonathan Boucher, an English clergyman, who was employed by General Washington as a tutor for his step-son, John Parr Custis, said of Washington, "George like most thereabouts, had no other education than reading, writing and accounts, which he was taught by a convict servant whom his father brought for a schoolmaster."

Despite all the myths, George was a natural, normal lad. He was a strong and vigorous youth. His father taught him to ride his pony and sent him to school in care of a servant until he learned to manage the pony by himself; also impressed upon him the importance of exercise and developed in him a strong love of sports, with a desire to play every game to win—and he loved all games.

His father died when he was eleven years old. A farm of 280 acres was willed to George and it was in his mother's hands until he was of age.

He was sent to live with his half brother, Augustine, at Bridges creek, because the best school available was close by. Augustine had married a wealthy girl and they lived in the comfortable fashion of the prosperous planter. He had a library and thirty horses in his stables; close by were young folks of George's age, so he found the change to Williams school very pleasant.

Here he was a leader in all games and sports of vaulting, running, jumping, pitching sports and throwing the bar; he excelled in horsemanship and it was here that he became interested in surveying. He undoubtedly realized that his education would be limited at best so he applied himself seriously to such studies as were available to him, but despite his remarkable absorption in books, adventure lured him.

There is a tradition that when George was fourteen, his brother Lawrence understanding the boy's dreams of travel and especially of going to sea, secured for him a midshipman's warrant. His mother's reluctant con-

sent was finally obtained and his luggage was placed aboard the ship of His Majesty's Navy, anchored in the Potomac, when his mother changed her mind and withdrew her consent, so George had to abide by her final decision. Though trained to implicit obedience, it was a bitter disappointment.

BECAME A SURVEYOR

About the time he was fifteen, he went to live at Mount Vernon with Lawrence, his step-brother. His desire to be a surveyor became his objective, as surveyors were few and their earnings were exceptionally good. George was engaged by Lord Fairfax as an assistant to his instructor, James Glenn, who was a county surveyor, to aid in the survey of the Fairfax holdings in the Shenandoah valley, which consisted of thousands of acres. Lord Fairfax was devoted to the boy and is said to have summed up his estimate of this favorite in a letter to Mrs. Mary Washington in which he said:

Honored Madam: You were so good as to ask what I think of a temporary residence in England for your son, George. It is country for which I myself have no inclination. The gentlemen which you mention are certainly renowned gamblers and rakes, which I would be sorry for your son to be exposed to, even if this means he is admitted to a residence in England. He is strong and hardy and as good a master of a horse as I could desire. His education might have been better, but what he has is accurate and inclines him to much life out of doors. He is very grave for his age, reserved in his intercourse, not a great talker at any time. His mind appears to me to act slowly, but on the whole, to reach just conclusions and he has an ardent wish to see the right of questions—what my friend, Mr. Addison, was pleased to call, "The Intellectual Conscience."

Method and exactness seem to be natural to George. He is, I suspect, beginning to feel the sap uprising, being in the spring of life, and is getting ready to be the prey of your sex, wherefore may the Lord help him, and deliver him from the nets which those spiders, called WOMEN, will cast for his ruin. I presume him to be truthful, because he is exact. I wish I could say that he governs his temper. He is subject to attacks of anger on provocation, and sometimes without just cause; but as he is a reasonable person, time will cure him of this vice of nature, and in fact he is, in my judgment, a man who will go to school all his life and profit thereby.

I hope, Madam, you will find pleasure in what I have written, and will rest assured that I will continue to interest myself in his fortunes.

I am honored by your appeal to my judgment, I am, my dear madam, your obedient humble servant, Fairfax."

HIGH STANDARDS SET

From a paper found in the early writings of Washington, copied from the original with literal exactness and edited with notes by J. M. Toner, 1888, were found the rules of servility which it is assumed he copied from a work by Hawkins, which was in wide use in France and England. There were 110 of these and he had copied them verbatim. Imagination, natural disposition to do everything well and the influence around him which encouraged him toward the high standard of perfection, and his attainment of these standards is shown by more recent surveys in the same territory with modern instruments which show that the lines he helped to mark out when he was a lad of sixteen are decidedly correct.

The hardships he endured as a surveyor in the service of Lord Fairfax prepared him for out-door activity and for future travels of a similar nature. Thus, he was ready when sent upon an important mission by Governor Dimwitty. It also fitted him for the part he was called upon to take when serving under General Braddock and later as commander-in-chief of the Virginia forces. When he officially was given the appointment as public surveyor, he was prepared for it. His only occasion for travel beyond his native shores was when he accompanied his half-brother, Lawrence, to the Barbados, where the latter went in search of health. It was here that he contracted smallpox, which left permanent marks upon him.

He was commissioned to investigate the erection of French fortresses on the Ohio, which commission he carried out with such success that he was appointed lieutenant colonel, in command of troops sent by Virginia to aid in building forts in defense of British possessions against the hostilities of the French, which

ended disastrously and in retreat and surrender at Fort Necessity.

When Colonel Fry died, the chief command of the troops fell upon Washington. Independent companies arrived at the fort and still others were enroute. When Washington was apprised of the approach of Captain MacKay, he began to wonder whether MacKay was to be under his command or independent. He had learned that officers commissioned by the Crown sought precedence over those commissioned by Colonial governors.

The question of rank came up again the next year when he had resigned his commission, returned to agricultural pursuits and was invited by General Braddock to join the general's official family as a volunteer. Braddock had learned that knowledge of Indian warfare, which Washington had previously gained, proved invaluable and Washington was led to expect a royal commission. He steadily refused to serve under any commander whose titular dignity was inferior to his own and he was upheld in this by his companions in arms. But the question of rank arose again and it could not be settled, so Washington asked permission to go to Boston to get Governor Shirley, Commander of the King's Forces in America, to decide the matter. Shirley did not have the power to grant commissions in the standing army, but he gave an order that Washington should command when he and Captain MacKay should join forces.

MARRIED AND ENTERED OFFICIAL LIFE

When this campaign closed, he was married to Martha Dandridge Custis and took his seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses, to which he had been elected while he was absent on military duty. The delightful trip from Williamsburg to Mount Vernon, which had been placed in readiness for him, was a very happy journey. There, for a period of sixteen years, he followed peaceful pursuits, punctuated by occasional short journeys.

George Washington was a thorough-going American

with the ingenuity of the American. He was very circumspect in his dress and always wore clothes befitting the occasion. But he never hesitated to meet emergencies by adopting any methods which were apparently necessary. On one occasion he urged the British commander to allow him and his men to adopt Indian dress, adding, "'Tis an unbecoming dress for an officer, I confess, but convenience rather than shew, I think should be consulted." The general gave him leave and it was done.

But after the separation of the Colonies from the mother country, he became an ardent advocate of having his garments made in America, both as to material and tailoring. However, he was not always able to obtain the materials for such garments as must be included in the wardrobe of the president of the United States, so from necessity rather than choice, London merchants were again patronized, but he had definite specifications about what he wanted and what he did not want.

A cynic once said that we go through life with only one true friend, and that person is his or her mother. That certainly was not true of George Washington, for he did possess his mother's deep affection, but he also had the devotion of the majority of those who crossed his pathway. As he ascended the pinnacle of fame, his old friends, even those of boyhood days, stood shoulder to shoulder by his side.

Very few lives have been laid bare in the same manner as that of George Washington and stood the test of time as well as of critics. A few historical facts of his boyhood have been distorted, his private life has been discussed from every angle, and his official life, which rightfully belongs to the public, stands out in bold relief as a shining example to the world. His friendship and intimacies with the Fairfaxes and Carlisles ended only with death.

He probably had more honors conferred upon him than any other man in American history until the ad-

vent or the near closing period of Herbert Hoover's important impact upon the United States and upon the world. For it is extremely doubtful if any living man in the United States or in the world has had as many honors conferred upon him as has Herbert Hoover.

George Washington was extremely devoted to his wife and her sons and immediately adopted them and bestowed upon them the same affection he would have, had they been his own. In fact, he could not have been more interested in their welfare had they been his own children. Martha Custis was the widow of a very wealthy man and was an extremely gracious, patient and understanding woman. She was devoted to Washington for the remainder of his life.

Of his brothers and step-brothers, there was only one for whom he did not hold very high regard and that was his brother Samuel, of whom he said, "He constantly kept himself in debt," which to Washington was unpardonable. In addition to his indebtedness difficulties, Samuel was also a very hard and devoted addict of liquor. This, of course, George did not countenance and for that reason, it was the only apparent deflection in his admiration for the members of his family.

DEVOTED TO HIS MOTHER

His mother, Mary Ball, was one of the remarkable women of any age. She instilled in him the high standards to which he later attained and his devotion to her as well as her devotion to him never seems at any time to have had abatement in any degree. In fact, all during his activities before his marriage and whenever opportunity presented, during his military campaigns or upon whatever mission he had been sent, he was constantly keeping her in mind and writing her letters from a devoted son and upon every occasion returned home to visit her.

His activities as a general and his conduct of the Revolutionary war against the British must be left for another paper. It shall be considered enough to be said here, and historians are in agreement on this, that he

was the only man in the colonies at the time who could have gotten the forces of the colonies together, held them together and achieved a final victory. It has been said over and over again that no other man of his time could have accomplished this important beginning of a new nation. It has been said of him, as he has been called a great general, and he was a great general, that "he never won a battle, but never lost a campaign." Of course, the tide was turned when the French came to the rescue of Washington and the Revolutionary forces. General Lafayette came to his assistance and became his very great friend. This was a friendship that continued long after the Revolutionary war.

An interesting side-light on this friendship is indicated by the presentation of a Masonic lodge apron that Mrs. Lafayette made for him by hand and presented to him. It was a beautiful work of handcraft and George Washington wore this apron when he laid the cornerstone for the capitol building in Washington.

On another occasion Lafayette sent him a number of hound dogs, quite a number in fact, and these dogs were used on the plantation. But one of them, whose name was Vulcan, must have had some rather easy access to the home or at least to the kitchen. For on one occasion, when guests had been invited for a dinner and Martha Washington had on her menu a Virginia ham and the ham had been nicely prepared by the cook in charge, old Vulcan somehow got into the kitchen and when discovered, the Virginia ham had become a part of old Vulcan's development. There is no note as to how old Vulcan fared after having consumed a ham, but in these modern days of emphasis upon pets and dogs, it is well known that a very poor thing to feed a dog is ham or a ham bone. It is altogether likely that in those days the hams were not so highly treated with salt which seems to be the factor that provides a deterrent in these modern days and can do things to a dog's digestion that most other foods cannot, and perhaps the old dog got through the ordeal all right.

To be indicated from the above, George Washington was a strong member of the Masonic lodge. He served as Worshipful Master of the Masonic lodge at Alexandria and was also Grand Master of the Masonic lodge of Virginia, and in this capacity served the fraternity in many different ways. Through the years Masonic lodges throughout the country have observed his birthday with adequate ceremonies. There is an interesting story in connection with the Boston Tea Party that involves members of the Masonic fraternity. It is a well known part of authenticated history that in Boston there was the old Green Dragon tavern, but historians have not often related the fact, that above the old Green Dragon tavern was the Masonic lodge room; that here the Masons met in regular and perhaps called meetings. Of course, this was about the time and period of the great tea tax which Britain had imposed upon the colonies, which might well be viewed in modern times as one of the first impositions of the sales tax. But in any event, it was distinctly unpopular with the colonists and it was their decision that they would drink no British tea as long as the three per cent tax was imposed. But Britain expecting to enforce not only the delivery but the imposition of the tax, sent the three ships loaded with tea into the Boston harbor.

Time after time, in this Masonic lodge over the Green Dragon tavern, discussions arose as to what would be done when the ships arrived and what disposition should be made of the tea. But it apparently had been well decided, perhaps as perfectly as the famous ride of Paul Revere. For the Masons came together in their meeting when the ships laden with tea were lying in Boston harbor. The meeting was called to order and the Masons, of course, appearing with Masonic white aprons were in attendance. There isn't any record upon the lodge books, but it is known that the meeting was closed, that the Masons doffed their aprons and donned the garb of Mohawk Indians. John Hancock, who was the secretary of the lodge, signed his name the full

length of the page so, as he put it, "King George could read it without his spectacles." These Masons suddenly transformed into Mohawk Indians went down to the harbor and dumped the tea into the water, and thereby set up perhaps one of the greatest tempests that was ever stirred up in any teapot in the whole world.

WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

It has been observed in previous paragraphs that Washington was a thorough-going American; that he had no desire to be thought of as anything else; moreover, did not wish to be involved or aligned with anything which was not American. It has been said recently that he did not use the term, "no entangling alliances," but it is altogether likely that this was an epitome of some things which he said in the closing paragraphs of his farewell address, after having served as president. Here I insert quotations from that Farewell Address. He had been stressing the advantages of the new nation and its peculiar opportunities and speaking against the idea which still prevailed among many that we should follow the monarchical forms of government of the old world, or copy this or copy that. I have foregone the privilege of quoting much of it, but these quotations follow along after that and this is what he said in that connection:

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation; why quit our own to stand upon foreign soil; why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of a European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice? 'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances of any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it.

This reference is to such existing agreements as had been entered into with foreign countries. Then he goes on to emphasize that these agreements should be carried out by saying, "Public honesty and private honesty are on the same basis," and he also says that "honesty is always the best policy." "Let the engagements be observed in their genuine sense, but in my opinion it would be unwise to extend them."

It is interesting to observe that when the Colonies came together under what was thought of then as a Confederation of the Colonies, there was considerable question as to whether they would survive. Certainly Britain did not think so and Carlisle gave the new Republic fifty years. Washington himself had some doubts about whether the differences could be composed and held so as to keep the Union strong. But as the years moved along, he adhered to the policy and the principle that the Union could and would stand, but that it would always depend upon the people of the United States to see that it did. Of the constitution, when he had occasion to make reference to it, which he frequently did, always with reverent awe, he was continually emphasizing the fact that it was not a wholly perfect instrument, but that the process of amendment insured its integrity and its strength and its survival. This he never failed to see and impress upon those 'round about him.

I think that the American way of life, the liberty which was founded upon such principles as were enunciated by George Washington, has rather a close relationship with the Christian religion. For with all the assaults that have been made both upon the constitution and the American way of living and the Christian religion, they have both survived. They had to be right, they had to be true and they had to meet the needs which were imposed upon them in order to withstand such assaults. In my judgment, this is one of the most convincing presentations which can be made of their rightness, their integrity, their truth and their ability to serve mankind.

WASHINGTON TAKEN OVER

It is interesting in this connection to remember that George Washington as the first president of the United States did not take the country over. The country took him over. There were no black shirts, no brown shirted fantastically organized pressure mobs to take over the government of the United States. George Wash-

ington was taken over by the people, and based upon his accomplishments and the fundamentals embedded in the constitution, the nation has grown to the enormous importance it has in the world.

Let us look again at his emphasis against entanglements with foreign countries. I am of the firm conviction that if we had adhered through the years to the principles he enunciated upon this subject, this nation would be in a far different and a far better situation in the world than it is today. I am not one of those who wants to go back to or bring back the old days. I lived in some of the old days and my father lived in some old days. My grandfather, who was one of the first three white men to settle in Platte township of Union county of this state, lived in what is known as the "good old days." I am not for bringing them back, but I am saying that we fought two wars, World War I and World War II on foreign soil on the theory that it was much better to fight America's battles on foreign soil than it was to have to fight them on our own. But you cannot keep on throwing your garbage and your refuse over into your neighbor's yard without ultimately his throwing them back along with some of his own. In other words, he will eventually retaliate.

We have gone into two wars, three if you want to count Korea, on the theory that we could thus avoid a war on our own soil. Only the other day President Eisenhower intimated that there may have been a miscalculation in both World War I and World War II, and even hinted that there may have been such a thing in the Korean case. General McArthur in his famous birthday celebration address in Los Angeles, only recently set forth the fact which has been known since the time of Washington because he enunciated some of the same principles, that no country wins in a war and that everybody loses.

What is the conclusion of this sentiment? Simply this, now that we have dumped our bombs and sent our soldiers and our navy and our air force to foreign soil,

we face the prospect of having the next war upon our own shores and upon our own soil. I submit to you that had the principles of Washington been observed, not because they are old, but because they are fundamental, and a fundamental principle is never outgrown, we might have avoided many pending problems.

Now, I would like to add something in connection with the Constitutional Convention, that was held in Philadelphia. It convened in May and finally concluded on the 17th day of September. This convention, one of the most important which has ever been held within the history of mankind and was the birthplace of what was at the time called, "One of the Great Experiments in Government," was not an easy convention. It was a trying and troublesome assembly. Travel conditions were at their very worst. It took George Washington two weeks to travel from Mount Vernon to Philadelphia. I have done it myself in an automobile in four hours and today it could be done by jet propelled airplanes in almost no time at all. In fact, you would hardly be off the ground in a plane operated by jet propulsion in either city before you would be over the other one. Some of the delegates never did get there. Some of them did not arrive until the convention was almost over. Some of those who were there became so angry, they went home.

It was a convention of great soul-searching debate and men's souls were tried. But it finally came to its conclusion, finally drawn so that it met the approval of those who signed it and the majority of those who were present. Of course, the thing that made it possible at all was its susceptibility to amendments. Without this provision, it might never have been conceived.

On the final day, the 17th day of September, when the signing time came, the delegates marched down to the table at the front of the hall to affix their signatures. Benjamin Franklin, one of the great delegates had an aisle seat. He marched down, affixed his signature and before he was seated and while the last members were

signing the constitution, Dr. Franklin looking toward the president's chair at the back of which a rising sun happened to be carved, and the design was not too clear and not too easy to establish whether it was the intention of the artist to present a rising or a setting sun, Dr. Franklin said to those members near him, "I have often and often in the course of this session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that painting behind the president, without being able to tell whether it was a rising or setting sun; but now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

My fervent wish and hope is that we will always see to it that it is a rising and not a setting sun. That this nation is not in the sundown period of its experience, but that it is five o'clock in the morning for the United States of America.

Life's Miracle

By PAULA BISHOP

The great miracle
Of life
Is renewal.

There is death,
But there is birth, too.
There is winter,
But always after it—
Spring!

There is disappointment,
But also hope!
We don't understand it.
We just accept it.

Ringgold County's Centennial

By LUKE E. HART*

I know something of the pride with which the people of this county approach this occasion, the celebration of the Centennial of its founding, and "home my footsteps I have turned" in order that I might participate in this historic event.

It is indeed a great privilege for me to be here and to have the opportunity of joining in this celebration, which for me is full of sentiment. It was more than one hundred years ago that my grandfather, Luke Shay, with his wife and three small children settled about three miles west of what is now the town of Tingley, in the northwest quarter of the county, then known as Platte township. It was just one hundred years ago that he joined with other residents in driving "west of Clarinda" some Pottawattamie Indians who were disturbing the tranquility of the settlers. It was just one hundred years ago that the first formal religious services were held in this county of which there is any record or knowledge—a Methodist service in Mount Ayr and the celebration of Mass in my grandfather's home by a Catholic priest who had arrived there on mule back while he and his wife and their children were accompanying other residents of the county on the trip to drive the Indians "west of Clarinda."

It was just one hundred years ago this coming December that his son Thomas S. Shay was born, the first

* Address of Luke E. Hart at Mount Ayr, Iowa, July 4, 1955, on occasion of the Centennial celebration of organization of Ringgold county. Mr. Hart, a native of Maloy in that county, was long a practicing attorney at St. Louis, Missouri, and is now Supreme Knight of the fraternal order of Knights of Columbus with headquarters at New Haven, Connecticut. From 1922 to 1953, he served as Supreme Advocate of the order, in which capacity he acted as legal counsel and its key policy-maker. Since his advancement to the high position of Supreme Knight, he has been chief administrative officer in the organization. For many years he has been the recognized strategist behind its growth, official policies and manifold programs.

white child born in Platte township, embracing the entire northwest quarter of the county. It lacks just two of being one hundred years since the district court of Ringgold county, as its first act following its establishment, granted his petition for citizenship.

My grandfather, whose name I bear, exerted a great influence over my life. He was a deeply patriotic American. He belonged to that group of men who pushed the frontiers of this nation beyond the Mississippi river and into a new and wholly undeveloped territory. He had pride of ancestry and he deeply revered his forebears, his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather, whose graves I have visited and over the latter of which may be found today, a monument stating that "Here lyeth the body of Luke Shea, born 1705, died 1762."

To me his life symbolizes the spirit of our nation. As a young Irish immigrant of twenty-four, he arrived with his wife at Castle Garden in New York harbor in the year 1848. After five years of work on the railroads, from New York to Baltimore, to Louisville, to Terre Haute, he, with his wife and two small children, and \$360 which he had saved, arrived in this vicinity in the spring of 1852. After a year in Union county, he purchased the land west of Tingley in Ringgold county which afterward became his home.

But circumstances in the form of a prairie fire which destroyed his home in Union county and compelled his removal to Clark and then to Decatur counties, delayed his taking up his residence on the farm near Tingley until the early spring of 1855. But from that day until his death, forty-one years later, Ringgold county was his home and the scene of all of his activities. He gained his livelihood by farming and stock raising. His activities were confined largely to the western part of the county. One of the early historians of Ringgold county, comparing another of the early pioneers, Andrew O. Ingram, with him, said, "He was to the eastern

part of the county what Luke Shay was to the western part of the county."

He was a devout Christian. He practiced his religion faithfully and without ostentation. In the very early days, when facilities for the performance of his religious duties were not close at hand, he took three of his children, in their turn—my mother in 1853, my Uncle Thomas S. Shay in 1855 and my Uncle Douglas Shay in 1857—by moving wagon to St. Joseph, Missouri, one hundred miles away, without roads, without bridges and a week's journey, in order that they might be baptized in accordance with the tenets of his religion.

That spirit of enterprise, that vision, that industry and that rugged determination were characteristic of the men and women who founded this county and established it as one of the units that make this one of the greatest states in the Union.

I relate these facts with regard to my own pioneer ancestors for the purpose of bringing home to those in the audience the circumstances under which this new county was populated and developed. However, I realize that they are merely typical because there are few Americans who cannot find in their family history similar stories of those who risked much and endured much to bring a dream into reality. It is those qualities which within the short span of one hundred years have developed this great community and have made this into the greatest nation on earth.

RINGGOLD COUNTY OPENED FOR SETTLEMENT

I know the question arises in the minds of many as to why Iowa, and in particular, Ringgold county, was so late in its development. The fact is that until the Black Hawk war of 1832, which was fought on the east bank of the Mississippi river, all of Iowa belonged to the Indians. But as a part of the settlement that grew out of that war, a strip about ninety miles wide along the west side of the Mississippi river, and containing about six million acres, became the property of the United States and was opened for settlement on June

1, 1833. Thereafter the state was opened by sections and it was not until May, 1843, that Ringgold county was opened for settlement.

With the cession of the six million acre tract on the west bank of the Mississippi river, the area was divided into two counties, Dubuque county on the north and De Moine county on the south. Development proceeded rapidly and in August, 1836, Dubuque county had a population of 4,274 and De Moine county a population of 10,531. Two years later the population had almost doubled, with 22,859 people in the sixteen counties that were organized from the area comprising the two original counties. This rate of growth continued and census taken in 1840 found the population to be 43,112.

In his message to the legislature upon its convening at Burlington, November 9, 1839, Governor Lucas said that with a genial climate, soil unsurpassed for fertility, abounding with pure water, navigable rivers and inexhaustible mineral resources, it had advanced, since its organization, in improvement, population and wealth beyond a parallel in all previous experience and he recommended that the legislature formally request the congress to authorize the admission of Iowa as a state at an early date. By mid-summer of 1844, it was estimated that the population numbered over 75,000. That was the year Ringgold county acquired its first settler, when Charles H. Schooler settled in the southeastern part of the county.

When Iowa was admitted as a state in 1846, the first free state carved out of the Louisiana territory, its population was slightly more than 100,000. It had 44 counties, mostly in the southeastern corner of the state, where most of its population then resided. Fewer than 10,000 resided in northern Iowa and there were but two families in Ringgold county, the family of James Tithrow having settled near that of Charles H. Schooler in the summer of 1846. The first white child born in the county was Manoah B. Schooler, who was born in 1847.

There was no further settlement for several years

and in 1854 there were only nine families in the county. However, in 1855 there was quite a brisk migration—four or five neighborhoods being formed in different parts of the county. It seems strange, indeed, that Iowa should have waited so long—340 years after Columbus discovered America and 212 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

ATTRACTIVENESS OF IOWA COUNTRY

When the settlers did come to Iowa, they beheld the most attractive and the most inviting country ever fashioned by the Creator. It was a broad undulating prairie, rising gradually from the southeast corner, where its lowest point is 444 feet above sea level, toward the northwest, where in the northwest part of the state the highest point is 1,694 feet above sea level, a land bounded on the east by the broad Mississippi and on the west by the mighty Missouri.

And what brought these people to Iowa and to Ringgold county? All of the great events of history, the struggles and tumults, the victories and defeats of which there is a record, are merely incidents of an irresistible tendency to movement among human beings. That movement of races no system of political organization and no form of government, however powerful or extensive, has been able to arrest or even to check. And that movement of races has always been the result of land hunger, of an impelling demand for new lands to provide sustenance for those mouths which could no longer find it on the lands they occupied.

It was this hunger for land that moved Barbarian tribes to invade the Roman province, overturn the empire and wreck the monuments of ancient civilization. It was that same hunger that plunged the nations of the earth into two world holocausts and keeps them now teetering on the brink of still another. While this soil has been the theater of a race movement greater than any the world has ever seen, it has involved no violence and entailed no injury to anyone, but has brought enormous benefits to millions.

The pioneer settlers of Ringgold county found here a country that was nearly all prairie, excepting the valleys of the Platte river, along its western boundary, and the several forks of the Grand river and their affluents. The soil was covered with native grasses and in the valleys there was sufficient timber for the erection of temporary buildings, for fuel and for rails for fences and the protection of their crops. The streams abounded with fish and there was an abundance of game, including buffalo, deer, wolves, squirrels, prairie chickens and quail, passenger pigeons, ducks and geese.

This was the country into which came the pioneer settlers whose deeds and accomplishments we have gathered here to commemorate. They did not come here to seek a life of ease. Their coming was a determined and carefully considered choice. They wanted a place where they could have peace, where they could rear their families in the love and fear of God, where their children could be educated and where by industry and thrift they might earn a competence to sustain them in their declining years.

LAND SOUGHT FOR HOMES

From the very beginning, the home has been the fundamental unit of the social order in this country and our government has encouraged the homemaking spirit among its citizens. First, it allotted public lands to those who would settle on them, live there a number of years and improve them as homesteads. The laws preserve free from sale for debt, certain homesteads of our citizens. The laws of various states exempt from taxation owner-occupied homes, household goods and tools of trade of the head of a home. The federal and state governments allow deductions for income tax purposes for wives and children. Generally, the farmers in the field, the miners in the bowels of the earth, the business and professional men in their shops and offices, the workers in the factories are working to earn money with which to establish and maintain homes— homes to house their families and in which

to rear and educate their children. Without homes there would be no social order, no schools, no churches and no American way of life as we know it in this country.

The men and women who came to Ringgold county had no illusions as to what frontier life on a western prairie would require of them. They were under the stern pressure of making a livelihood. They came with a knowledge that the privileges they hoped to acquire involved the assumption of burdens. There was nothing about them to awaken friendly interest among those with whom they came in contact excepting their moral character, their ability and their willingness to contribute by their efforts to the establishment of a new community. They brought with them the most valuable possession that any man could offer—a pair of human hands and an eagerness to employ themselves in the cultivation of the soil. They believed in the admonition of the Creator that man must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. They were able to work and willing to work, and so they went to work. In season and out of season they labored, the women with the men.

They were without money to spend, but that made little difference because there was nothing to buy. The nearest trading points were St. Joseph, Missouri, Keokuk and Burlington, each 100 miles away—a week's journey in a moving wagon. There were no roads, but that did not matter because there was no place to go. The only vehicle was the wagon which brought them, their families and their possessions. There were no electric lights, not even coal oil lamps; only home-made tallow candles. There were no stoves; only open grate fires. There were no washing machines; only wash boards, and not many of these.

They raised and sheared their own sheep, carded and spun the wool, wove the cloth, knitted the yarn and otherwise fashioned their clothing. Their houses were not merely places in which to live. They were work-

shops and factories in which the things needed for their livelihood and comfort were planned and made.

ENFORCEMENT OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS

There were no courts but they were scarcely needed, because each one respected the other's rights. The only serious transgression of another's rights occurred when a man just over the line in Decatur county became angry because a neighbor's cow had damaged his corn and he shot and killed the owner of the cows. These sturdy pioneer ancestors of ours formed a posse, took the guilty party in hand, organized themselves into a court, heard the testimony of witnesses, found him guilty, sentenced him to be shot and, on the four corners at the intersection of Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke and Union counties, proceeded to carry out the sentence.

There were no tractors and only a few horses. Nearly all heavy work was done with oxen. Almost the only implements now in use on the farm that were then known to these early pioneers were the pitchfork and the plow, and the plow of the early 50's was a crude implement, indeed. The soil was sod-bound and tough and it was a considerable undertaking to break the ground on 40 acres or 80 acres with one of these early plows and a yoke, or several yoke, of oxen.

I remember hearing Thomas Canny, one of the very early pioneers and a man who became one of the county's most prosperous and respected citizens, relate an incident that may be worth repeating here. During the winter of 1855-56, he and two other men were engaged in hauling logs for my grandfather on three sleds, with several yoke of oxen. It was bitter cold and Mr. Canny and one of the other men thought it necessary to walk in order to keep their blood circulating and thus avoid freezing. But the third man insisted upon riding on his load of logs. Mr. Canny and the other man used their ox whips on the fellow who wanted to ride, which made him so angry that he would run after them, but in this way they kept him moving and thus prevented his freezing to death.

I have often heard my grandmother tell of the founding of their first home in the Tingley vicinity. The simplest structure that could be built was the stable for the horses and it was built first. But the members of the family were in greater need of shelter than the horses and, therefore, when the stable was finished, it was occupied by the family until the house was erected, and not until the house was finished and the family had moved in was the stable made available for the horses. In the meantime, cooking and other household work that required the use of a fire was done outdoors over an open fire.

IOWA'S SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH

It is an historical fact that the greatest movement for the settlement of a new country that ever occurred in the history of the world took place here in Iowa between 1840 and 1860, and although the movement began in Ringgold county later than it did in the counties farther east and north, by the middle of 1855 it was in full swing here.

At first, what is now Ringgold county was attached to Taylor county. In the spring of 1851, commissioners appointed by act of the legislature to locate the seat of justice for Ringgold county reported that they had selected a place for the county seat, which they had designated by setting a stake about four miles south of the center of the county and that they had named the said county seat Urbana. They gave as a reason for their inability to give a more particular description of the place the fact that the land had not been surveyed into sections. I suspect that at this time nobody knows the exact location of Urbana. This first attempt to organize the county was not a success, probably due to the fact that there was not sufficient population to form an organization.

October 16, 1852, the county judge of Taylor county entered an order declaring Ringgold county to be a separate election precinct under the name of Schooler township and designating the voting place for the presi-

dential election to be the house of Lott Hobbs, in the southern part of the county. The creek in that vicinity known as Lott's creek derived its name from Mr. Hobbs and the township derived its name from both.

MOUNT AYR LOCATED AS COUNTY SEAT

April 18, 1855, commissioners appointed by act of the legislature to locate the county seat of Ringgold county reported to the county judge of Decatur county, as the act of the legislature provided, that they had selected for the county seat the southwest quarter of Section 6, Township 68, Range 29, with the name Mount Ayr, and on June 9, 1855, Edward A. Temple deeded the land to the county.

At the election that was held soon thereafter, James C. Hagans was elected county judge, Matthew R. Brown, clerk, Joseph W. Cofer, treasurer and recorder, Hiram Imus, sheriff, and Charles H. Schooler, school fund commissioner, and on June 29, 1855, Judge Hagans made a settlement of financial matters with Judge Lowe of Taylor county whereby he received \$1.45 that was due Ringgold county, and with this small capital Ringgold county set up for itself.

The first formal meeting of the county officers was held at the house of Ephraim Cofer, about six miles south of Mount Ayr, July 2, 1855. At that time the county judge divided the county into four townships, or election precincts, respectively, Sand Creek, Platte, West Fork and Lotts Creek, and it was ordered that an election be held on the first Monday in August at the homes of Stanberry Wright for the northeast precinct, Garret Bird for the northwest precinct, John McGaughey for the southwest precinct and Joseph Strickland for the southeast precinct. The county judge, clerk and recorder divided the fees they had received up to that date and the share of each one amounted to \$5.20.

The public business continued to be transacted at the home of Ephraim Cofer until September, 1855, when it was transferred to Mount Ayr. In the spring of 1856, the county judge caused to be erected at Mount Ayr a

hewn log house for the use of the county officers. It was 14 feet square, furnished with two tables, two desks, four bookcases and a small rough-board box or safe for the public revenue. This building was occupied by the county judge, clerk, treasurer, surveyor and one physician.

This first courthouse was superseded in 1859 by a frame one that was erected on the east side of, and which fronted, the public square. It was two stories in height, with four office rooms on the first floor and court and jury rooms on the second floor. It cost \$3,500, which was paid from the proceeds of the sale of town lots.

The first district court for Ringgold county convened in Mount Ayr, May 25, 1857, with Judge John S. Townsend presiding, Randolph Spry as clerk and John W. Warren as prosecuting attorney, and the first business transacted by the court was the granting of the application of my grandfather, Luke Shay, for naturalization as a citizen.

The most prominent man in the early history of the county was Judge Hagans, who was born in Kentucky and came here from McDonough county, Illinois. After serving three terms as county judge, he was elected a state senator and served with distinction in the Eighth and Ninth general assemblies. He died September 7, 1863, at his home in Mount Ayr.

CHURCHES EARLY IN ESTABLISHMENT

The pioneers of Ringgold county were good Christian, God-fearing people. Many of them brought a surprising number and variety of books but almost without exception they brought with them at least one book, the Bible. Through it all they remained loyal to the religious teachings and precepts of their forefathers. Throughout the county, religious services were conducted in the schoolhouses. Later, chapels devoted exclusively to the worship of Almighty God were built in different parts of the county. Among these was the Fry Chapel several miles south of Mount Ayr, which, I be-

lieve, is still in use. Another was the Highland Chapel about five miles west of Benton. But with the establishment of the towns and the improvement of the roads and travel conditions, churches were built in the towns and many of the country chapels were discontinued.

Today, every town and village in the county has one or more churches, with Mount Ayr having several fine churches and each one having pious and devoted congregations. There has never been any rivalry between the different religious groups in this county and therefore there is no bigotry, no intolerance and no discrimination. Each group and each member in each group serves the Master in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience and each one accords to his neighbor the full right to exercise that same privilege.

There is some question as to the exact date and location of the first school within the confines of this county, but it is certain that several schools were started between the years 1854 and 1858—not less than three or four. There are many supporters for the claim that each of these was first, but I do not think we can undertake to settle those claims here. However, it is certain that at about that time schools were built in Jefferson township, possibly as early as 1854, and in Mount Ayr as early as the winter of 1855-56. Early teachers were Miss Arsella Kirkham, John Cunningham, a Miss Brown, Miss Bell and Miss Charlotte Swan, whose wages varied from four dollars per month to ten dollars per month.

Then came the system of establishing district schools two miles apart. There were no school buses and as I was among those who happened to live diagonally across a section from the school, during my early childhood I walked two miles to school. The advancement in the Iowa school system has been one of the marvels in the development of our nation's educational system. The consolidated grade and high schools, the normal schools, junior colleges and universities in Iowa outrank those of any other state in the Union and the ex-

penditure per capita of schools in Iowa is many times as great as it is in some of the other states.

Throughout all of these now more than one hundred years since the settlement of Ringgold county began, the people of this county, together with other people of this great state, have given of their manhood and their womanhood to the upbuilding of communities of which every Iowan is proud. From out the homes they established have gone boys and girls to give this nation strength and to make it worthy of the great heritage that is ours. No limitation of race or tongue or creed has interfered with the free interchange of talents, the merging of ideals and the development of that creative spirit that has given America its place of leadership among the nations of the earth. That Ringgold county and Iowa have contributed more than their share toward all of this is a matter of common knowledge and it can easily be demonstrated.

CONTRIBUTED TO DEFENSE OF NATION

The people of Ringgold county have always exhibited a fine spirit of patriotism and have contributed generously to every national endeavor. When the Civil war broke out and the safety of the Union was threatened, the response of Iowa to the call of President Lincoln for volunteers was overwhelming. Although the population of the state was less than 700,000—including not more than 150,000 men eligible for service—Iowa gave to the Union army 75,519 volunteers. Every cemetery in Ringgold county enshrines the remains of men who served their country in the defense of the Union. Also in the Spanish-American war, in the first and second World wars and in the Korean episode, Ringgold county did its full share.

What Ringgold county did to vindicate the honor of our nation in the second World war is very fresh in our memories. Here is the record: Ringgold county contributed to the armed service of our country 1,045 men and 19 women. Theirs is a glorious record and proves them to be worthy of the best traditions of our soldiers

in other wars. They have returned, all but 45 of the dearest and best of them, who made the supreme sacrifice and who will never return. Their sacrifices and the record of their deeds will be held in grateful memory as long as time shall last.

America has always upheld the principles asserted in the Declaration of Independence and established with the blood and the sacrifice of our founding fathers in the war of the Revolution. It was to uphold those principles that two world wars were fought and the boys from Ringgold county who endured the hardships and made the sacrifices that the war required of our armed forces were valiant and loyal successors of the hardy pioneers who one hundred years ago established this great community in which you live and of which every person having any relationship to Ringgold county is proud.

Permit me again to extend my sincere thanks for the honor and privilege of being here and having a part in this program. In a busy life, crowded with activities that absorb my time and energies, this manifestation of your friendship and good will will be treasured by me among my choicest memories.

TV Sets Outstrip Bathtubs

Farm homes in Iowa have fast become modern—and the new ones have the conventional conveniences. But word now comes that in one county at least there are now more television sets than bathtubs. It seems there are 2,329 farm homes in Polk county in which 1,769 have bathtubs and running water. But there are 1,788 of the farm homes of the county having television sets.

Other records show that in Polk county farm homes there are 2,093 telephones. 2,274 farmers have electricity, 2,063 have automobiles, and on 1,360 of these farms are neither horses nor mules.

Aaron V. Proudfoot—1862-1936

By FRANCIS I. MOATS*

The political pattern of the United States prior to World War I was shaped to a great extent by the influences of the frontier. It was the age of individualism in the economic world and in the political world, as well. It was the age that produced the great industrial magnates of the late nineteenth century. Functions of government as relating to the individual citizen were relatively few and these were administered largely at county, township, city and village level—all subdivisions of the state government. Federal officials were fewer than now and seldom did the great mass of citizens have any occasion to contact them, nor even pay any direct tax for the maintenance of government at that level.

Educational opportunities as viewed from the level of our present-day public school system were more limited, although not ignored. Few were the communities that could not boast of its one-room district school, and by the close of the nineteenth century high schools were general in all county seats and in some smaller towns—available but not compulsory. But, for the great masses of children outside of these population centers, the one-room rural school had to suffice. Formal education was far less important in the late nineteenth and first decade of the twentieth century as a factor in developing community leadership than in our own time. Yet, if secondary schools were limited to population centers, opportunity to attend any college was far more restricted. It is doubtful whether any large percentage of rural youth had college aspirations prior to the turn of the century. It was an age of self-education and an age when qualities of natural leader-

* Professor Emeritus of History and Science, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa.

ship were determining factors with respect to who would rise to positions of qualified leadership.

Aaron VanScoy Proudfoot was a typical product of that environment. His father, Jacob Proudfoot, migrated from northern Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1855, and settled on a farm in southern Warren county, Iowa, but removed to Liberty, a small village in northern Clarke county, in the spring of 1856. He had been a village blacksmith at Taylor's Drain, Barbour county, Virginia, prior to his trek to the Iowa frontier. In this Clarke county village he set up a blacksmith shop which he continued to operate until his death in 1898.

During his early years at Liberty, Jacob served as postmaster for the community and for some years mail was delivered there by stage coach. Jacob related that he was self-appointed greeter for strangers and travelers during those early years and that groups of wandering Indians occasionally passed that way. That he rose to prominence in his community and county is shown by the fact that he was chosen to represent Clarke county in the house of representatives of the state legislature and served in this capacity during the session of the Sixteenth general assembly of Iowa in 1876.

There is no evidence available to indicate that he met with any serious opposition, but he was not a candidate for re-election in 1878. One who serves in the state legislature must look to other sources than his compensation from the state for his livelihood and a tradesman's income, except the small allowance from the state then paid, would cease while he was attending the session. Therefore, it is not surprising that he should have failed to seek re-election. This experience, while only an incident in the life of the senior Proudfoot, may have been the spark that lighted the flame of ambition in young Aaron and started him on a career that was to make him one of Indianola's foremost citizens and prominent in the state's affairs.

A NATIVE IOWAN

Aaron VanScoy Proudfoot was born in 1862, the youngest of seven children—five boys and three girls. He was the only one of them born in Iowa. There appears to be little in his childhood and teen-age years that marked him for distinction. In his own brief autobiography he refers to the times that he held a candle to provide light for his father in the blacksmith shop and to the fact that he was educated in the village school at Liberty. He relates that he "entered Simpson college in the fall of 1881 and at the same time entered the law and abstract office of Creighton and Hayes in Indianola, from which he entered the office of Hall and Hartman who took over the abstract business of Creighton and Hayes." This afforded him not only opportunity to provide for his college expenses but to begin the study of law in the law office. He was to remain in the office of the Hall and Hartman law firm until 1892, when he was elected to the office of clerk of the district court of Warren county, a position to which he was elected for three successive terms, a total of six years.

Aaron was enrolled in the preparatory department of the colleges from the fall of 1881 to the close of the school year 1882-83, and completed most of the preparatory work for college entrance. He then enrolled as "special" for the college year 1883-84 without classification. He received no diploma from the college nor does it appear that he ever attained to the rank of college freshman.

So Proudfoot was not one to regard formal education in an institution of higher learning as essential to success in his chosen field of law. He relates in his autobiography that he "applied himself diligently to the study of law not only while in the law office of Hall and Hartman but also while in the office of clerk of the district court." His period of self-study, he relates, covered a period of fourteen years.

In 1898, he appeared before the supreme court of Iowa as an applicant for the examination for admission to

the bar. There were fifty-eight candidates who took the examination at this time and of that number, Proudfoot's name stood at the head of the list—the top ranking candidate. He was, therefore, admitted to the bar in Iowa in 1898. His third two-year term as clerk of the district court would end at the close of that calendar year and on January 1, 1899, he opened in Indianola a law office of his own, which he maintained until his death in 1936.

EARLY ACTIVE IN POLITICS

Soon after his arrival in Indianola, young Proudfoot identified himself with the Republican party and became active in politics. For four years in succession he was chosen chairman of the Warren county Republican central committee. He was regularly a delegate to the county convention of his party and on several occasions was a delegate to the Republican state convention. Here he soon became known for his resonant voice and on several occasions was made the convention's reading clerk. In 1904, he was chosen presidential elector from his congressional district and cast his vote for Theodore Roosevelt. Also, he was active in community affairs, serving for several years as city solicitor and another several years as secretary of the Indianola school board.

But Proudfoot's great public service was to begin in 1908, when he was elected to the state senate from his district comprising Clarke and Warren counties. He was to serve two terms of four years each in that office and was destined to become a candidate for the office of governor of the state in 1912, but failed to receive the nomination by his party. In 1916, he became a member of the board of trustees of Simpson college and the next year, 1917, was made president of that board—a position he was to hold for nineteen years or until his death in 1936.

Even more spectacular was his rise to national prominence in the affairs of the Methodist church. The general conference of that church made him a member of

the council of its board of benevolences in 1920 and four years later made him a member of this board's successor, the World Service commission, a position he was to hold the remainder of his life and which gave him national prominence in the Methodist church. The Des Moines conference of that church chose him as a delegate to their general conferences of both 1924 and 1928.

ENTERED STATE SENATE

Proudfoot became a candidate for the state senate in the June primary, 1908. He had no opponent within the party and thus became the Republican nominee in the November election. There were no sharply drawn issues in the ensuing campaign and he was elected by the normal party vote of the senatorial district of 2596 votes to 1641 cast for his Democratic opponent.

From the time he entered the senate in January, 1909, until the close of his four year term, he was looked upon as one of its leaders. His resonant oratory, his command of effective language and his dynamic personality all contributed to leadership so valuable and necessary in legislative bodies. He was named chairman of the senate committee on educational institutions and chairman of the committee on penal institutions and pardons. In addition to these important chairmanships, he was selected to membership on the important appropriations committee. He was also appointed to membership on the judiciary committee, and several committees of lesser importance. It fell to him to assume leadership in formulating legislation affecting educational institutions and he initiated the measure creating the child welfare department at the State University of Iowa. He served on all conference committees affecting these institutions and at the same time was sponsor or co-sponsor of all legislation curtailing the sale of liquor or its manufacture in any form. Later he was in the senate when the eighteenth amendment was ratified by the Iowa legislature.

When the second session of his term was convened

in 1911, Proudfoot was ready to assume a position of even greater influence than that of his first session. He was continued on the same committees as in the previous session and with the advice of his friend, former Sen. W. H. Berry, of Indianola, who also had served for several years on the state board of parole, its regulations were materially amended. Proudfoot had not only sponsored that measure but was one of the sponsors of a measure materially revising the regulation of fraternal insurance organizations, with which he was familiar through his prominence in the A.O.U.W. order. As this second session was drawing to its close, he was appointed a member of the strategic senate sifting committee of seven members. He was thus recognized as an outstanding member and perhaps the leading parliamentarian of the senate.

DISTRICT RULE INTERRUPTED SERVICE

He did not choose to become a candidate for reelection, because custom in his district had decreed that the office should be alternated between the two counties. Senator W. H. Berry had attempted some years earlier to break the precedent, but had failed. Senator Proudfoot had become one of the most prominent men in the state senate and his friends were reluctant to see him step aside to await probable subsequent election for another term in the senate after an interval of four years.

The *Indianola Herald* on numerous occasions had suggested the candidacy of W. H. Berry for the office of governor in the June primary of 1912. Berry toyed with the suggestion during the fall of 1911, but in early December he announced that after a survey of probable support, he had reached the definite conclusion that he would not have sufficient support to warrant a campaign. (See article on W. H. Berry in *ANNALS OF IOWA*, Vol. XXII, No. 2, pp. 110-126, October 1953.)

The refusal of Mr. Berry to be drawn into the campaign as a candidate led the *Indianola Herald* to announce in its issue of January 12, 1912, that "Since

Berry is out of the race we have no candidate for Governor . . . We believe," that paper continued, "we have the right man down here for lieutenant governor. Senator Proudfoot has not given us his entire confidence as yet concerning the matter; but from favorable comment throughout the state since the *Herald* mentioned his name for that office, we feel that his name would be formidable."

The situation regarding Proudfoot's candidacy remained in a condition of uncertainty for a few weeks, but with an apparent wide assumption that he would be a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. A political bomb, however, was soon to be exploded when, on February 13, the *Des Moines Register and Leader* carried the following comment:

That Senator Proudfoot is going to be candidate of the Standpat Republicans for the nomination of governor is the latest political gossip.

It is understood that within the last few days Senator Proudfoot has about decided to leave the field for lieutenant governor, for which office he has been considered, and go after the bigger game.

One Republican who is close to Gov. B. F. Carroll said last night, "Senator Proudfoot's candidacy for the nomination would be pleasing to Governor Carroll and the majority of 'Old Guard' Republicans who have been looking about for a third man to enter the race with P. G. Holden and George W. Clarke . . ."

GOVERNORSHIP CANDIDACY ANNOUNCED

The rumor of Proudfoot's candidacy proved to be well founded, for a week later, February 20, he gave to the *Des Moines Register and Leader* a formal announcement of his candidacy and a statement regarding his platform. After praising the last two general assemblies, of which he had been a member, for their accomplishments, he continued: "I shall stand for Republican national policies as announced from time to time in the national platform of the party and I shall advocate the approval and continuance of those policies as carried out in the able administration of President Taft . . . He and his administration are entitled to the continued

confidence and support of the American people and I shall put forth every reasonable effort to further his nomination."

Other points in his platform called for "better public schools with emphasis on improved rural schools, better support of agriculture in various phases;" and he commended the last general assembly particularly for its reorganization of the state board of education (his own measure) and an employer's liability law. It was clear, however, that his chief consideration would lie in support of the Taft candidacy.

The ascendancy of the Progressive Republican movement in Iowa again was being challenged. Cummins had served three terms as governor and was still a senator of the United States with a formidable Iowa following. However, both Clarke and Holden were identified with the Progressives and would be expected to divide that vote.

In this situation, Governor Carroll and others of the Standpat group believed that with an aggressive and able candidate the governorship could be retained by them. This element had canvassed the names of their strong men, and decided upon Senator Proudfoot as most available for their standard bearer, being prominent, able, a vigorous campaigner, meeting every foreseen requirement and fully qualified to be governor.

Issues were slowly crystallizing after candidates had made their public declarations. As late as mid-April all candidates were anxiously awaiting the spring state Republican convention, which would be held in Des Moines April 25, before launching a formal campaign. As this date approached, Proudfoot expressed confidence in his success in the June primary. Commenting in its April 4 issue, the *Indianola Herald* declared that "Senator Proudfoot will be at the Republican state convention. He has strong support and he thinks he is almost certain of nomination." A week before the convention was assembled, he announced that he was opening his headquarters at the Savery hotel in Des Moines

and would be prepared to put forth a vigorous campaign.

The Progressive movement developed decided activity and strength at the convention and it became apparent that many of the mild Standpatters preferred the moderate Lieutenant Governor Clarke to the more positive Senator Proudfoot and that many Standpatters would support Clarke, whose characteristics of fairness as speaker of the house of representatives two sessions and as lieutenant governor were recognized, as well as his ability and experience as a campaigner. The maneuver had merit, but without the full Standpat backing promised, Proudfoot was handicapped. Moreover, the strong Cummins organization was back of Clarke.

An analysis in the *Indianola Herald*, May 9, declared that "Many who are distinctly representative of the Standpat organization manifest a strong disposition of giving to Lieutenant Governor Clarke a support that will be compensatory for the division in the Taft-Cummins fight. Also the so-called liberal elements are counted on for Clarke . . . In the meantime Senator Proudfoot who probably understands as well as anyone that the Standpat element has tried to trade him off now appears less a factional candidate than was originally the case and is more to be regarded as an exponent of temperance and other strictly moral issues."

This was evidence that Proudfoot had been oversold in the first place by his Standpat friends or that they had misjudged the situation when they induced him to become a candidate. Seeking support elsewhere, he raised an issue that in fact was not rightfully in the primary campaign, for Lieutenant Governor Clarke was a dry and neither expected or sought support from the "liberals." By the middle of May the ultra conservative Republicans were showing inability to marshal substantial strength for Proudfoot, and it was becoming fully apparent that his candidacy was rapidly weakening. The extreme Standpatters continued

their support, as well as did a host of personal friends and acquaintances, but the outcome was not in doubt. The issue was clearly drawn between the other two candidates. Proudfoot finally was to poll 23,311 votes or 14 percent of the total, Professor Holden of Iowa State college polled 68,801 votes or 37 percent, while Lieutenant Governor Clarke polled 89,107 votes or 49 percent of the total and became the party's nominee.

There would be an interval of four years before Proudfoot could again seek public office. Not infrequently did one who had served four years and who must remain on the sidelines for the next four years find it difficult to re-enter public life. He remained silent as to his intentions and not until early April 1916, did he announce his intention to again be a candidate in the June primary, for the office of state senator. His candidacy met with general approval in his district and no other name appeared on the ballot for that office. In the election that followed in November no attempt was made to raise any issues and he polled just above 60 percent of the total vote of the district.

RETURNED TO STATE SENATE

When the general assembly met in January, 1917, Senator Proudfoot was able to resume most of his old committee positions, but his former important chairmanships were not readily available. He was again appointed to the important committee on educational institutions and as the session advanced, was chosen a member of the strategic senate sifting committee, a committee on which he served during the second session of his first term in the senate. Gradually his natural qualities of leadership and experience gained for him recognition by the new membership in the senate and he stood well with the veterans. In the second session of his second term beginning in January 1919, Proudfoot had regained top position as an outstanding member. He was rewarded in receiving the same strong committee assignments, and this session became the chairman of the senate sifting committee.

However, the custom in his district would decree that another break of four years must elapse before he could seek renomination by his party for the office. It does not appear that afterward he had any desire to ask re-election nor did he ever seek public office again. He could point with pride to his part in reorganizing the state board of education and to the creation of the child welfare department. He had worked constantly for more rigid control of the manufacture and sale of liquor and was happy to be able to support the ratification of the eighteenth amendment. Evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by his associates in the state legislature was the fact that the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers association chose him in 1935 to deliver the biennial address to that association before the joint session of the two houses of the Forty-eighth General Assembly.

But, if his career in the public life of the state did come to an end with the closing of the 1919 session of the legislature, it could not be said that his interest in public affairs was to terminate. His personality early in life marked him for leadership in any activity with which he chose to identify himself.

Soon after he came to Indianola, he became a member of the Methodist church and throughout most of his life was a member of its board of trustees. He was to become one of the most widely known members of that church in Iowa and his influence extended far beyond the borders of the state.

He was married in the old Methodist church that stood at the northeast corner of the square in Indianola, indicating his close family affiliation with the organization and the place that it held in the life of himself and Mrs. Proudfoot.

SERVICE ON SIMPSON COLLEGE BOARD

Sen. W. H. Berry had served as president of the board of trustees of Simpson college for many years and when he resigned that position in 1917, that board turned unanimously to the selection of Senator Proud-

foot as successor, although Proudfoot had been a member of the board for but one year. He was to serve in that office for nineteen years or until his death in 1936. During that period of service, he presided at all of the annual meetings of the board with but one exception and never missed a session of its executive committee. By his own choice he served throughout the entire period as a member of the committee on faculty, preferring that committee relationship in order to keep closely in touch with the scholastic program of the college. When a president of the college resigned in 1919, the board made him chairman of the committee to select a successor. Proudfoot had enjoyed contact with Dr. John L. Hillman who, when pastor of First Methodist church of Des Moines, had served on the board of trustees at Simpson. Dr. Hillman was Proudfoot's first choice and through his influence was chosen president of the college. "A. V.," as Proudfoot was popularly known, was always proud of his part in making this selection and Dr. Hillman always attributed much of his success in his seventeen years as president of the college to the very fine cooperation of the president of the board, particularly with respect to the financial improvement of the college's affairs. Just as Dr. Hillman was bringing his long term as president to a close, because of age, Senator Proudfoot was stricken with his fatal illness. Thus, both ended their connection with Simpson college in 1936.

LOYAL SERVICE TO CHURCH

For breadth of interests, Proudfoot had few equals and in no other activity did he display quite so much zeal over a long period of time as in his varied church interests. He could scarcely remember a time when he was not a member of its official board and remained a member of this board as long as he lived. As stated, he was married in the old church and was proud to see his daughter, Charity, follow his example with a church wedding when she became Mrs. John Hillis. For many years he taught the men's college class in

the Sunday school and frequently addressed the very large group of men known as the Smith bible class.

His commanding platform presence combined with splendid oratory created widespread demand for addresses, not only in Indianola but throughout Iowa Methodism and on frequent occasions beyond the state's borders. He was frequently chosen as lay delegate from the Indianola church to the sessions of the Des Moines annual conference, and in the session of 1919 this annual conference chose him alternate lay delegate to the general conference which would meet in Des Moines in 1920. This general conference selected him as member of the council of boards of Benevolence for the four-year period.

The Des Moines annual conference chose him as lay delegate to the general conference of 1924, where he was made a member of the newly created World Service Commission, the new agency which was to take over the duties of the former council of boards of Benevolence, of which he had been a member since 1920. Proudfoot continued his membership on this commission until his death. He also served on the important committee for Episcopacy in both the general conference of 1924 and again in 1928, when he was again chosen by the Des Moines conference as delegate to the general conference.

A WIDELY KNOWN METHODIST

It has been said that no other Methodist in Iowa was as widely known as was Proudfoot. Not only had he played an important role in the business of this church, but he had attracted wide attention through his well-known lecture, "Some Errors in the Trial of Jesus." This lecture was delivered before many audiences both in Iowa and beyond the state's borders, including an appearance in Baltimore, Maryland. He was, without doubt, Indianola's greatest orator and no other man in his county except Senator Berry was as widely known in public life.

Proudfoot could count among his personal friends

who had been entertained in his home several bishops of the Methodist church, several governors of the state, and some Iowa members of congress. On one occasion he entertained in his home a former president of the United States, William Howard Taft. He lived in a stately home on West Salem avenue, a home in keeping with the dignity of its owner, and there his three children were born, a daughter and two sons. The older son, Paul, was killed in a railroad accident at the age of eighteen. The second son, Edwin VanScoy, lives in Indianola and is the father of three children. The daughter, Charity (Mrs. John Hillis), now a widow, who lives in Indianola on the site of the old home, has two sons and two daughters all grown to maturity. It was a home that served as a center for many social and community gatherings and a home where numerous college students found a welcome. Several of these students were indebted to Mr. Proudfoot for the opportunity of earning their college livelihood while attending college by work around his home or office. Some were given loans in addition to their work. Some of these young men became prominent lawyers, others were prominent in the business world and one became a college president.

Proudfoot was a charter member of Lions International club of Indianola, and was prominent in the civic and social affairs of the community.

GRAND MASTER OF A. O. U. W.

As a member of the order, Mr. Proudfoot attended sessions of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Iowa. He was elected to the office of foreman of the Grand Lodge, one of its subordinate positions, and year by year was advanced through higher positions until he attained the rank of grand master. After this distinguished service, he became a past grand master and served as a member of the board of trustees as a grand trustee for a period of twenty-five years.

During the years of the readjusting of the insurance rates of members of the order and more particularly

when a portion of its reserve assets had been called in question and the sharp decline in farm prices developed, in 1927 Mr. Proudfoot reluctantly resumed the position of grand master. This was urged upon him by the board of trustees because of his ability, his knowledge of the affairs of the grand lodge and his reliability in judgment and action in every station of life ever assumed by him. He was disinclined to take on this work, for it required much time from his law practice. These duties continued until 1932, when in cooperation with the Iowa State Department of Insurance, the organization was merged with and became a part of the A.O.U.W. of North Dakota, the consolidated group afterward changing its name to the Pioneer Mutual Life Insurance Company, with head offices at Fargo, North Dakota. Senator Proudfoot strongly favored this move and in most praiseworthy manner cooperated in negotiating the reinsurance contract, his service as grand master continuing in the meantime.

When he died in 1936, the Iowa senate then in session, memorialized him with a resolution drawn up by Senator Beardsley, praising him for his unusual political record, his life as a citizen and as a Christian gentleman.

To Attain Eternal Life

Get all you can without hurting your soul, your body, or your neighbor. Save all you can, cutting off every needless expense. Give all you can. Be glad to give, and ready to distribute; laying up in store for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may attain eternal life.—John Wesley.

The Unstable Ages

All centuries are dangerous; it is the business of the future to be dangerous. It must be admitted that there is a degree of instability which is inconsistent with civilization. But, on the whole, the great ages have been the unstable ages.—Alfred Whitehead.

Railroading in Iowa Before 1900

By G. W. DYE*

My experience in railroad work has been largely on the Rock Island lines. As a young man, I entered its service in 1861, when the company owned but 183 miles of trackage between Chicago and Rock Island built in the 1850's.

Conductors were not very plentiful in those days and new railroads tried out inexperienced men and taught them how to handle trains. The first conductors hired by the Rock Island company were taken from canal boats on the Illinois and Michigan canal. These were Captains Reed, Sheppard, two Wheelers, Kellogg and Phillips. All were running trains when I came on the road. Captain Phillips had been sailing a boat on the canal for a number of years and it was difficult for him to give up his sailor lingo for some time after he had gone to railroading, and at times when he thought his train was going to run by a station, he would call to his head brakeman, Dave Baxter, "Snub her, Dave, she is going by."

Trains were not very numerous in the sixties, one passenger and two freight trains each way, and occasionally an extra. There was little danger from collisions and trainmen were not as cautious and thorough as they are now. In fact, they were quite lax. I remember a time-card rule which read, "Train going east will wait one hour and five minutes at a meeting point for trains going west. They may then proceed, keeping one hour and five minutes behind the card time until the delayed train is passed."

Every time-card had contained this rule and trainmen never anticipated that there would be a change made in this or any other rule. But, on one occasion

*A paper read at a social gathering at Washington, Iowa, by W. G. Dye, veteran railroad man, who in 1904 told of great changes and improvement in methods of operation and equipment.

when a new card was being gotten out, the printer made a mistake in reprinting the rule referred to and where he should have printed "east," he printed "west," and west was used where east should have been. The mistake was not detected by any of the officials in Chicago and the cards were sent out to employees, none of whom discovered the error for over two weeks after the card had gone into effect. Trainmen ran their trains according to the rule in previous time cards. Such a thing could not happen in this day and age of railroad-ing.

For several years previous to 1862, times were hard and business was very light on railroads; the rails and roadbed on nearly all railroads were in bad condition. The Rock Island used iron rails $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, weighing fifty-six pounds per yard. Now they use steel rails five inches high, weighing eighty to ninety pounds per yard. The old iron rail would break and it was customary to keep track walkers patrolling the track in winter both night and day, looking for broken rails.

A story is told on a track-walker, and perhaps many have heard it, who upon finding a broken rail one night hurried back to the station to flag a train then about due, and when this train arrived, reported the break and went off and got some of the section men to make repairs. Returning, the engineer cut his engine from the train and started with the men to the point where the rail was broken. After running a piece, he asked the track-walker how close they were to the break. The track walker said, "A little furdur, sir," and continued saying " a little furdur," until the engine went off the track and then he said, "Now yez have it, sir." When the engineer found he was off the track, he reached for a wrench, but the track-walker had disappeared. Wages were 75 cents per day for track men.

LOCOMOTIVE OVERTOOK BOAT

We had an engineer on the Illinois division by the name of O. Moore, and the boys called him Rorey, although Rorey was not his first name. I think Rorey

came on the road in 1861. Shortly after he began running, and before he had become familiar with the line, he was rounding a curve one dark night near LaSalle, where the canal is very close to the track, when all of a sudden he saw the glaring red light on the rear of a canal boat and thought he was dashing into the rear end of a train. Rorey was a man of few words. He threw up both hands and simply uttered this unique prayer, "Gone to hell."

I remember another engineer who ran a train out of Rock Island in the early days, who was known among the boys as the Wild Frenchman. He at one time had a grievance against a freight conductor named Kelly and awaited a chance to get even. The opportunity came. Kelly ran the stock express which left Rock Island about 7 o'clock in the evening and which usually had a full train to start with and seldom picked up cars or did way work at intermediate stations. Kelly had a nice red caboose with a room partitioned off in one end, a stove and other comforts, and after leaving Rock Island, he would take off his coat and shoes, light his big meerschaum pipe, smoke and take comfort.

One cold night in January when there was about a foot of snow, the Frenchman was pulling a second section and following Kelly. At Depue station there was a water tank and all trains took water there. Approaching Depue from the west is a curve and heavy timber on each side of the road, and a train cannot be seen far from the station looking westward. The ground was frozen hard and, as stated, a foot of snow covered it. Kelly's train was taking water and the Frenchman's train was rounding the curve almost noiselessly, as the snow and frozen ground deadens the sound of a train.

Just before the Frenchman's train reached a point where it could be seen from the station, he took an old coat from the tender box and handing it to the fireman, said, "I have an old score to settle with that chap

ahead and I want you to cover the headlight with this coat so no light can be seen. I will pull up as close to Kelly's caboose as I can, then whistle down brakes and when I do, you jerk off the coat." The fireman obeyed orders. The engine gave one wild shriek and with one bound Kelly reached the car platform, another and he was in the snow scrambling up the slope of the cut. He did not stop for shoes or coat. Reaching the top of the cut, he turned to witness the collision, when he saw the Frenchman's engine standing dead still. He took in the situation at once, but I will not repeat what he said on that occasion. The Frenchman listened attentively to Kelly, and later on said that on a test of profanity he would back Kelly for any amount, against all comers.

In 1873, I was employed on the Michigan Lake Shore railway for about eight months. I was in charge of the roadway department and it was my duty to clear the road of snow when it was blockaded, and there was plenty of this kind of work to do along the Lake Shore. We generally used three engines coupled together behind the snowplow. On one trip when riding in the plow, we went into the ditch three times in twenty-four hours. Of course this did not scare me away from the road, but about that time I made up my mind that the water did not agree with me, so I quit.

The road was managed by A. H. Morrison, ex-member of congress. Morrison was a nervous, hot-tempered old gentleman and when in a passion, would discharge an employe, only to reinstate him a little later on. On one occasion a conductor for some cause failed to take a car offered him by an agent, the agent reported the matter to Morrison by wire and when the conductor reached Holland station, the operator handed him a telegram from Mr. Morrison which read: "A. W. Brown, conductor, Holland. Sidetrack your train at Holland and turn your keys over to the agent. You are discharged." The conductor sidetracked his train and handed his keys to the agent, then sent a telegram by

Western Union which read: "A. H. Morrison, Gen'l Manager, Saint Joe, Michigan. Have you any objection to my walking back to Saint Joe over your railroad if I whistle at all the crossings?" Brown had not received an answer to his message when I left the road.

CRUDE CONSTRUCTION OF LOCOMOTIVE

Locomotives were very crude in the early days of railroading compared with the locomotives of today. It is customary to oil the cylinders occasionally and this is usually done while the train is on the down grade, as steam has to be shut off during the oiling process. These observations are not for the benefit of persons who have been in the train service. In the long ago some engines had a narrow rail about three inches wide running along from the boiler head to the front end and a rod above the rail to hold to. On this narrow rail the fireman would walk to the front end and oil the cylinders and often when the train was running at a pretty high rate of speed, and this part of the fireman's duty was considered a little hazardous.

There was a fireman on the road who at nearly all times while on duty had a cigar or part of one in his mouth. He did not smoke like other people, but would take a few whiffs and let his cigar go out and as he never carried matches of his own, he was nearly always calling on someone for a light. One day while he was walking out on the railing of his engine to oil, he slipped and fell. The engineer saw him go, stopped his train as quickly as possible and backed up, expecting to find a dead fireman. He found the fireman sitting in the weeds at the foot of the bank. He hurried to him and anxiously inquired if he was badly hurt. "Hurt, the devil no; give us a light."

The old-timer when he stops to think and allows his mind to wander back over the past thirty-five or forty years, is ready to tell you that great progress has been made in railroading in all directions. Cars and engines have been materially improved; coaches; sleepers and dining cars today are palaces of luxury.

In construction work, labor-saving machinery has taken the place of the cart, mule and shovel. Engineering feats on railroads are now being accomplished that would have been considered impossible thirty-five years ago. The telegraph system of handling trains has made it possible to handle a vast number on a single track, enabling them to make twice the speed that the few trains of thirty-five years ago made. The best talent that can be secured regardless of cost is directing the management of railroads at this time.

The gay, festive and hilarious official has given way to the sober, dignified and thoughtful official. Sobriety in all departments is now required of employes. All business is transacted systematically. The mileage made by everything on wheels is known. The car accountant can tell you where everyone of the thousand cars owned by the company is at a given time. The olden days were festive times for railroad men. I have known trainmen to carry gimlets and bottles; the gimlets were to bore holes in certain barrels in transit and the bottles to put the stuff in. A trainman caught with a gimlet nowadays would be hung.

Land For Education

Recommendation was made to the First Legislative session of the Wisconsin territory, by Gov. Henry Dodge, the propriety of asking from the congress of the United States a donation of one township of public land, to be sold, and the proceeds of the sale placed under the direction of the Legislative Assembly of the territory, for the establishment of an academy for the education of youth; the institution to be governed by such laws and regulations, and to be erected at such place as the Legislative Assembly may designate.

"It is a duty," said the governor, "we owe to the rising generation to endeavor to devise means to improve the condition of those that are to succeed us; the permanence of our institutions must depend upon the intelligence of the great mass of the people."

Iowa People and Events . . .

Traffic Changes in Iowa

The lapse of time can and does bring changes in most all things. In the railway systems of Iowa this has been especially noticeable. In the larger cities the street cars were supplanted by buses. The increase in automobile traffic caused many buses to be taken off the lines formerly maintained for city passenger service. It is now a question how long these car and bus lines may be continued.

Likewise, the interurban lines that once connected important communities in Iowa have discontinued service. In some instances the tracks have been removed and station depots torn down or moved. The last such line to discontinue service was that between Fort Dodge and Des Moines, known for years as the Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern Railway. The passenger service alone is stopped. Its last coach trip, a special, was on Sunday, September 11, 1955, the passenger service having been discontinued on August 31. It is one of four last remaining interurban lines operated in the whole United States. The trolley wires since have been removed and the electric locomotives and passenger cars scrapped in preparation for becoming an all-diesel freight line.

And the great overland railway lines traversing the state have not escaped the encroaching auto and truck competition that has crowded the paved highways of Iowa the past few years. The autos have grown larger and the state legislature has greatly liberalized the dimensions of freight trucks as well as weight limits, thereby increasing highway traffic many fold and congesting the roads and streets in and adjacent to towns and cities of Iowa not having by-pass routing. Moreover, the original pavements that gave this state one

of the best highway systems in the country have been greatly damaged and bridges broken down, causing great outcry for wider and heavier highway paving and bridges, which the state highway commission is now seeking to build.

As a result, train service on the rail lines has been greatly curtailed, many trains being taken off, and on some lines all passenger trains dispensed with. Branch lines are being operated at a loss and many abandoned with consent of the state commerce commission, formerly known as the state railway commission.

A notable change of some historical significance has been made in the routing of the passenger trains of the Union Pacific railroad through Iowa. Since the 1880's they came through Illinois and Iowa between Omaha and Chicago over Chicago and Northwestern railroad trackage. This is discontinued and the new arrangement is with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, bringing those trains over the latter line into the state from the east at Sabula, discontinuing the terminals at Council Bluffs and centering at Omaha.

The change was effective October 31, and caused an upheaval in Chicago & Northwestern territory, particularly in the larger towns and cities along that line. Not only does it cut down their train service but affects somewhat the number of engine crews required on the Northwestern, although that road has put on some new runs of its own replacing those lost by discontinuance of the handling of U. P. trains on their line.

The towns along the Northwestern, where U. P. trains have stopped heretofore, protested, reluctant to lose the service enjoyed in the past; besides at some points like at Boone and Clinton the loss of monthly payrolls distributed in the community might be seriously felt. Appeal was made to the Iowa Commerce commission by local Chambers of Commerce, but the commission is powerless in the situation, as the matter is a contractual relation between the roads, besides being interstate commerce. Iowa officials can only

make inquiry into the subject but have no authority to do anything else, even though they might determine some action was justifiable.

The Interstate Commerce commission at Washington also holds that it is without legal authority to interfere with the proposal by the Union Pacific to re-route its passenger train service in Iowa and Illinois. An official of the I.C.C. informed Senator Hickenlooper, of Iowa, "There appears to be no violation of the interstate commerce act, and the subject matters of the protests do not appear to be within the scope of this commission's jurisdiction."

Northwestern officials reported that passenger train service although unprofitable was interfering with their moving freight traffic, thus cancelling out its profits, causing shortage in net receipts, requiring payment of preferred stockholders dividends from surplus and by-passing common stockholders for four straight years.

Union labor employees of the North Western brought legal action in Chicago in the Federal court seeking an injunction to prevent the change taking place. The judge before whom it was heard denied the right to enjoin the roads in the change of trackage to be used by the Union Pacific.

In financial circles there has been persistent talk that Milwaukee and the Northwestern stockholding groups have engaged in discussion of possible consolidation of lines, although much of the mileage of the two is competitive. Such action if taken would not affect the traffic changes made, however.

The Bootjack Gavel

When former members of the Iowa General Assembly get together, oftentimes their reminiscences are most interesting. Not always are the discussions held strictly to legislative subjects either. Not a great while ago, a group of old friends that included several who had served the state as legislators many years ago were gathered at luncheon at one of the Des Moines hotels.

Among the anecdotes related was of a western Iowa house member who at that time wore boots and had brought along with him to Des Moines his bootjack, keeping it in his room at the Chamberlain hotel. During the course of the session, his friends helped him celebrate his birthday with a party. Obtaining from his wife, the bootjack, they dressed it up in silver and gold wrappings, tied it with multicolored ribbons, and presented it to him with due ceremony. There were other equally appropriate remembrances, with several complimentary addresses after the dinner had been served and dishes removed.

It had become a hilarious party and one member acting as toastmaster sought to quiet down the uproar in order to hear what was being said by impromptu speakers. Not having a gavel, he reached over and took the bootjack from its recipient and wielded it vigorously as a gavel. This chairman later became lieutenant governor and also held other official positions.

The next day the hotel manager sought out one of the participants in the event and asked him anxiously what was used in the marring of his wife's favorite mahogany table. The top was badly split and dented, and he feared to have his wife see it in that condition. But a member of the party had a friend who was officially connected with the Des Moines street car company and he had workmen in their repair and upholstering shop get the table and expertly renew and polish its top surface, restoring it to just as good condition as it was originally. Mrs. Brown never learned of its injury or that it had been out of the hotel, and continued just as proud of it as ever, notwithstanding the hammering it had received with the bootjack on the night of the birthday party.

Territorial Apportionment

Gov. Henry Dodge, of the Territory of Wisconsin, in the first apportionment of members of its Council and House of Representatives, that included an area in

what is now the state of Iowa, announced his selection of such on September 9, 1836, by virtue of the power vested in him by an act of the congress of the United States, based upon a census duly had.

Two counties embraced a portion of Iowa, being Des Moines and Dubuque counties, respectively. To the county of Des Moines were given seven members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Council; to the county of Dubuque were given five members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Council.

In the area now designated as the state of Wisconsin, to the county of Brown three members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Council; to the county of Iowa, six members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Council; to the county of Milwaukee three members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Council; and to the county of Crawford two members of the House of Representatives.

Governor Dodge further directed and ordered that the members elected from the several counties for representatives and council should convene at Belmont in the county of Iowa, on the 25th day of October, next ensuing, for the purpose of organizing the first session of the legislative assembly of Wisconsin Territory.

Most Precious Possession

Life is growth—a challenge of environment. If we cannot meet our everyday surroundings with equanimity and pleasure and grow each day in some useful direction, then this splendid balance of cosmic forces which we call life is on the road toward misfortune, misery and destruction. Therefore, health is the most precious of all things.—Luther Burbank.

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

SAMUEL HENRY BAUMAN, veterinarian, legislator and centenarian, died at Fairfield, Iowa, October 6, 1955; born near Zwingle, Dubuque county, Iowa, August 14, 1855; son of the late Rev. Frederick C. and Elizabeth Cort Bauman, grandson of Daniel Cort, a democratic member of the Iowa House of Representatives from Dubuque county in 1856 and again in 1865, and the eldest of nine brothers and sisters; educated in public schools of Dubuque county, Blainstown (Iowa) academy and Henry (Illinois) seminary; united in marriage to Myrtle G. Morse, of LaMotte, Iowa, June 23, 1881, who preceded him in death in 1931; taught school four terms, serving as principal of the Zwingle graded school; in 1881 became agent and operator for the C. M. & St. P. Ry. at Bernard, Iowa, and followed that occupation until 1890, when he resigned and took a course at the Chicago Veterinary college, graduating in 1892, receiving the degree of D.V.S.; entered a partnership with Dr. T. A. Shipley in the practice of his profession at Dubuque; removed in 1897 to Birmingham, Van Buren county, Iowa, and devoted his life to farming and practice as a veterinarian; served several years as town mayor and six sessions as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 1907 to 1917 from Van Buren county; a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, National Veterinary Medical association and the Missouri Valley association; was honored upon reaching his 100th birthday last August 14 by an open-house observance of the event at the Crawford Nursing home in Fairfield, where he has resided during the past two years in declining health, with more than 100 relatives and friends greeting him and many letters and telegrams congratulating him upon becoming the oldest legislator in Iowa history; survived by a son, three daughters, a brother, two sisters, 18 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

PHILLIP BRACKEN FLEMING, major General U. S. army, ambassador to Costa Rica, former federal works administrator and chairman of the maritime commission, died at Washington, D. C., October 6, 1955, at Walter Reed Army hospital while undergoing an operation for cancer; also had been under-secretary of commerce; born at Burlington, Iowa, October 15, 1887, son of John Joseph and Mary Bracken Fleming; attended Lourdes academy and Burlington high school and was a student two years at Wisconsin university (1905-1907) prior to entering

the U. S. military academy at West Point; student in army engineering school 1912-1913; received his LL.D. at St. Frances college, and his J.C.D. at Georgetown university; married Dorothy Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Carson of Burlington, December 5, 1914, at Burlington; entered corps of engineers, U. S. army as second lieutenant June 15, 1911, and advanced through the grades to major general in October, 1942; an engineer by training, during his long career in government served with the public works administration, the resettlement administration and the wage and hour division of the department of labor, as well as with the commerce department; was chairman of president's Highway Safety Conference 1946-1949, president's Conference on fire prevention 1947-1949; a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers, Permanent International Association of Naval Congresses (chairman of American section, member of permanent council), Delta Upsilon and Roman Catholic church; clubs included Minnesota, University, Somerset (St. Paul), Army and Navy, Army and Navy Country (Washington, D. C.), Chevy Chase, Engineers (New York); survived by his widow, two children, four grandchildren, four sisters, a brother and a number of nieces, the sisters being Mrs. Harding Polk of Burlington, Mrs. Wendell Van Auken of Buffalo, Wyoming, Mrs. Wilfrid M. Blunt of Washington and Mrs. Henry W. Chittenden of Owings Mills, Maryland, and the brother, John J. Fleming, Jr., of Philadelphia.

JOHN THOMAS MCCLINTOCK, physician and educator, died at Iowa City, Iowa, September 24, 1955; born at Burlington, Iowa, June 7, 1873; son of the Rev. John Calvin and Mary E. McKean McClintock; after attending Burlington schools received his bachelor's degree from Parsons college in 1894, which institution conferred a doctor of science degree upon him in 1925; pursued advanced medical studies at the universities of Vienna, Berlin and Leipzig in Austria and Germany and at Rush Medical college, Chicago, being on leave from the State University of Iowa during his studies in Europe; served as director of the college of medicine, postgraduate studies and of the physiology and pharmacy equipment maintenance shop; had been a member of the college of medicine faculty since 1897, also served as a junior dean from 1913 to 1933 and was chairman of the administrative committee from 1933 to 1935; was named professor emeritus of the physiology department of the State University of Iowa college of medicine in 1949; married to the former Beulah George of Des Moines June 20, 1900; a member and past president of the Johnson County Medical society; a member of the Iowa State Medical society, the American Medical association, the American Association for the Advance-

ment of Science, the Society of Experimental Biology and medicine, the American Association of University Professors and the Triangle club; also a member of Phi Rho Sigma, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon; was chairman of the executive council of the Association of American Medical colleges from 1922 to 1924; also served as an elder of the Presbyterian church and as a member of the State University of Iowa board in control of athletics; surviving are his widow, Beulah, and two sons, Dr. John Calvin of Albany, New York, and James Phillips of Worthington, Ohio; also one grandson, five granddaughters and one brother, C. Terry McClintock, of Sioux City, Iowa.

ROBERT MURRAY GUNN, retired Iowa farmer residing with a son at Washington, D. C., one of the organizers of the Farm bureau and prominent in agricultural organizations, died there in Walter Reed hospital September 23, 1955, his demise attributed to shock caused by a fall in the son's home the previous Sunday; born in 1865, in Elsinore, Bruce county, Ontario, Canada; educated in South Dakota schools and Iowa State College of Agriculture, Ames; engaged in farming for 69 years on Black Hawk county farms south of Waterloo and was still active in farming at 80 years; active in national farm organizations and during President Hoover's term of office, was on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Agriculture; was also head of the Cornbelt Meat Producers association, which was the forerunner of the Farm Bureau; was one of the original members of the National Meat Board in Chicago; a trustee of Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa, for 40 years; had lived in Washington for three years with his son and daughter-in-law, retired Army Col. and Mrs. Damon M. Gunn, 4418 Lowell street N.W., and before coming to Washington, was with the Gunns in Germany where Colonel Gunn was on duty with the U. S. military occupation forces; survivors besides his son and daughter-in-law, a sister, Tena Gunn of Jacksonville, Fla., and two grandsons, Ensign Alan Gunn, now stationed at Memphis, Tenn., and Robert M. Gunn of Chicago, Ill.

DANTE M. PIERCE, publisher, died July 27, 1955, at Des Moines, Iowa; born August 29, 1880, at Bedford, Iowa, son of James M. Pierce, a publisher of the local papers in Missouri and Bedford, who became one of the publishers of the *Iowa Homestead* at Des Moines in 1885; educated in the Des Moines public schools and for a time attended Iowa State college at Ames; enlisted in the Spanish-American war when only 17 while in St. Louis, Mo., and assigned to Company I, 5th Missouri infantry from Columbia, Mo.; away from home a great deal during his youth, and at times employed upon the *Homestead*; for a short time

owned the *Illinois Farmer*, Chicago; inherited 51 percent of the capital stock of the Homestead Company upon his father's death, and subsequent to assuming control of the property sold it to John and Henry Wallace of *Wallace's Farmer*, who combined the two farm papers, since being known as *Wallace's Farmer and Iowa Homestead*; the venture of the Wallaces ending unsuccessfully, whereupon Pierce purchased the plant from receivership in 1932 and since continued the publication with Donald R. Murphy as editor and his son, Richard S. Pierce as associate publisher since 1950; married Florence Prather, mother of Richard S. Pierce and they were divorced in 1929; married Mrs. Laura Rawson Coffee, who died in 1934, leaving three daughters, two of whom were adopted by Mr. Pierce; survived by the widow, the former Dr. Grace O. Doane, they having resided in the former Coffee-Francis home at 4140 Grand avenue, Des Moines.

JULIUS A. NELSON, farmer, banker and legislator, died at Atlantic, Iowa, July 24, 1955; born on a farm north of Atlantic, January 14, 1872, and resided in Cass and Audubon counties all his life; son of Danish parents, Peter and Marie Nelson; attended rural schools and the Atlantic high school, and a graduate of the Atlantic Business college; married Elizabeth Brown January 1, 1902 and they lived on the same farm west of the Atlantic Golf and Country club for 49 years; when 21 was elected clerk of Oakland township, Audubon county and served until he moved to Benton township, six years later; served as Benton township trustee six years and after moving to Grove township became school board secretary and treasurer; elected state senator in 1919 and served until 1928; served as vice-president and director of the Farmer's Savings Bank at Atlantic and at one time a director of the Federal Land bank in that district; was formerly president of the Cass County Mutual Insurance association and the Atlantic Building and Supply company, being a director of these organizations at the time of his death; surviving are the widow, two sons, Donald, living on the west coast, and Gail residing north of Atlantic, a daughter, Mrs. Margery E. Martin of Red Oak, three sisters, ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

GEORGE B. PERKINS: banker, city and county official and legislator, died at Sac City, Iowa, October 4, 1955; born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, August 11, 1874; came to Sac City in 1896 and since resided there; active in community and official life and became identified with the Sac county district court in 1906; was a state bank examiner for a period and on January 1, 1905 became president of the First National bank, Sac City; was an Iowa legislator in both house and senate, serving in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth General Assembly as a representative

and in the Fortieth, the Fortieth extra and the Forty-first General assemblies in the senate; was mayor of Sac City and long regarded as one of Sac City's leading citizens; his mother died in 1941 at Fond du Lac aged 105 years; served for 20 years as treasurer of the independent school district of Sac City; was married in June, 1899 to Lola May Early; a member of the Presbyterian church and several fraternal organizations including Masonic bodies, Iowa Pioneer Lawmaker's association; survived by his widow, one son, George Perkins of Big Fork, Minnesota, two daughters, Mrs. C. H. Jeglum of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Eloise Kibbie of Sac City, a sister, Miss Frances B. Perkins, of Fond du Lac, and two grandchildren.

CHARLES RAYMOND FISCHER, farmer, banker and public official, died September 8, 1955, at Des Moines, Iowa; born on a farm near Turin, in Monona county; son of George and Mary Fischer; attended rural schools and local high school, and also attended University of Nebraska and Des Moines university; in early maturity was engaged in farming and later in banking at Turin and Onawa in Monona county; became assistant budget director of Iowa in 1924, serving four years; served as corporation clerk in the office of secretary of state in 1931 and 1932; appointed state insurance commissioner in 1939, continuing in that position until 1947; was clerk of a legislative committee on reorganization of state government from 1947 to 1949, when reappointed state insurance commissioner and served in that position until his death; had previously been connected with several mutual insurance associations; a Republican and active in many state campaigns; suffered for several years from ill health and spent many winters in Tempe, Arizona; survived by his widow, Naomi Bennett Fischer; one son, George D., of Norwalk; three brothers, Lewis of Onawa, Walter of Castana and Chester A. of Cleveland, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. W. S. Whitlock of Turin, and two grandchildren.

WILLIAM J. KEEFE, attorney and jurist, former resident of Clinton, Iowa, died in Bronxville, New York, September 14, 1955; born in Clinton, November 17, 1872; son of Thomas and Mary Miles Keefe; attended the schools of Clinton and was graduated from the University of Iowa law school in the class of 1894; began the practice of law in Clinton and served two terms as county attorney of Clinton county; married Annabel Carroll of Davenport on June 12, 1912; served as chairman of the Clinton county Democrat central committee in 1932; appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal bench as judge of the U. S. Customs court in 1933, serving in New York city, the family moving east at the time of his assuming the office; retired from office in 1947 and continued his residence in

Bronxville; survived by his widow, two sons, William C. Keefe, of Bronxville and John M. Keefe of Rye, New York, three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

ALEXANDER STANLEY BLOEDEL, hardwareman, undertaker and legislator, a resident of Iowa 54 years, died at a Hamburg hospital September 10, 1955; born in Papillion, Nebraska, May 8, 1876; son of Andrew and Caroline Bloedel; attended rural schools at Papillion, and moved to Iowa in 1893; married Sarah Weatherhead in 1904, and they have a family of five sons and two daughters; a civic leader, and at the time of death was serving a third term as representative from Fremont county in the Iowa legislature; his varied activities included those of a Tabor hardware dealer for 54 years, a trustee of the now defunct Tabor college 15 years, president of the old Tabor & Northern railroad, many years a funeral director, a former mayor of Tabor, and bank director 35 years; in 1948 received his 50-year Masonic pin and also held membership in the order of Knights of Pythias, the Congregational church and the Republican party; survivors include his widow, two sons, Raymond of Malvern, and Robert of Tabor, both in the hardware business; five daughters, 17 grandchildren, one brother and three sisters.

HOBART M. MCPHERSON, banker, died at his summer home at Bridgewater, Conn., October 1, 1955; born at Fairfield, Iowa, in 1896; was graduated from the University of Kansas in 1920 and then joined the National City Bank in New York; was assigned to the credit department; appointed an assistant cashier in 1928 and an assistant vice president in 1931; stationed at the Forty-second street branch from 1935 until transferred to the Fifth Avenue branch at Fifty-first street, in 1944; in July 1945 promoted to a vice presidency, the title of the bank since March, 1955, being the First National City Bank, as a result of the merger of the National City and the First National; had been active in the work of the National Travelers Aid association, of which he was elected president in May, 1946; was also treasurer and a director of the National Health and Retirement association; belonged to the University Club and the Skating Club of New York city and the Apawamis Club of Rye, and resided at 200 East Sixty-sixth street, New York; survived by the widow, Mrs. Dora Dehli Gould McPherson, their marriage having occurred last November, and a step-daughter, Mrs. C. Samuel Ashmun, Jr., of Minneapolis.

FRANK J. COMFORT, lawyer and former referee in bankruptcy, died at Des Moines, Iowa, November 1, 1955; born at Mason City, Iowa, May 30, 1890 and attended high school there; at-

tended Iowa State college at Ames, the State University of Iowa and Drake University, receiving a law degree from the latter in 1913; became a law clerk for the Fidelity and Casualty Insurance Co. in New York in 1913 and 1914, and then returned to Des Moines, where he entered general law practice and served as claim agent for the same company in 1914 to 1916; appointed federal referee in bankruptcy for the southern Iowa district September 1, 1916, and held that position 15 years except for time spent in service in World War I; active in Democratic politics most of his life; a delegate to a number of national and state conventions and was a party leader without becoming a candidate for office; served as Democratic national committeeman from 1939 to 1944; was general counsel and a director of the Insurance Plan Savings and Loan Association and president of the Des Moines Building Co.; belonged to Kappa Sigma and Tau Psi fraternities and the Knights of Columbus, of which he was a district deputy for a number of years; survived by his widow, Marie, his mother Mrs. Thomas Comfort of Mason City, a brother, George P. of Des Moines, a son, Frank P. of Des Moines, a daughter, Mrs. Calvin Manning of Sterling, Ill., and four grandchildren.

ELMER A. JOHNSON, lawyer and legislator, died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 21, 1955; born in a lumber camp at Wernerville, Juneau county, Wisconsin, November 29, 1871; son of John and Kate Burke Johnson; came with parents to Chester, Howard county, Iowa, in 1877, where he grew to manhood upon a farm; obtained early education in rural schools, taught school, read law in John McCook's office in Cresco and in 1899 graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa; admitted to the bar the same year and subsequently practiced law at Lisbon in Linn county; served in the Spanish-American war with Co. I of the Fiftieth Iowa infantry regiment; was married June 5, 1901, to Ella Kettering of Lisbon, who died in 1903; again married December 14, 1905, to Iva M. Strong of Lisbon; served in the Iowa house of representatives three terms, which included four sessions; began his practice of law in Cedar Rapids in 1919 and his combined years as an attorney both in Lisbon and Cedar Rapids was 56 years; a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans, Iowa Consistory, El Kahir Shrine, Star of the West Knights of Pythias lodge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Linn county, Iowa and American Bar Associations and St. Paul's Methodist church, also formerly a member of Linn County Farm Bureau and the Kiwanis club; survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Erroll L. Miller of Cedar Rapids.

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Claude R. Cook, Curator
Des Moines

An institution of the State of Iowa, located at the seat of government, established as a department of the State in 1892, and administered by a Curator elected by a Board of Trustees composed of the Governor of the State, a Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It consists of the following divisions:

The Iowa Historical and Genealogical Library

The Public Archives of the State of Iowa

The State Census Records of Iowa

The War History Division—Iowans in Four Wars

The Portrait Gallery of Iowa, exhibiting oil portraits of the outstanding men and women who have contributed to Iowa culture, official life and progress.

The Museum Division: Indian, geology, pioneer life, transportation, and natural history collections and exhibits

Publication: *ANNALS OF IOWA, a Magazine of History*

The Newspaper Division—Files of Iowa newspapers and periodicals from territorial days to the present

The Manuscript Collection including papers, addresses, documents and correspondence of eminent Iowans, supplying unrecorded chapters in state history

In the interest of preserving Iowa history, the Curator solicits the presentation, to the Manuscript Collection, of letters, diaries, family histories, and general manuscripts about Iowans and institutions in the area of which the state is a geographical part.

ANNALS OF IOWA

In the more than half a century the *ANNALS OF IOWA* has been published, it has been a repository for, and made available, a vast amount of valuable data on the history of the State otherwise not accessible. The securing of material, and editing and supervising its publication, is a part of the immediate task of carrying on the work of the Department in harmony with established traditions.

Bound files of the publication are preserved in countless libraries of the State, and may be consulted by those engaged in research and historical writing.

